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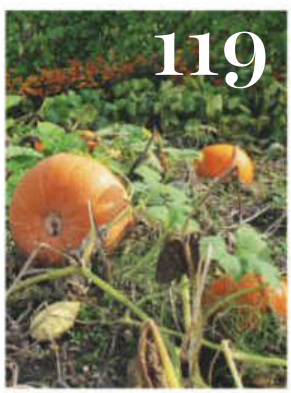
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Things I've seen, done and loved this month...

We've been showcasing the best of country style for nearly 30 years here at Country Homes & Interiors and this issue's autumn trends special is one of our best yet! On page 69 we shortlist the new-season colours, fabrics and hero buys in our gorgeous 12-page Autumn Decorating Lookbook. As thoughts turn indoors after a summer of outdoor living, we also travel across the UK to step inside characterful cottages, barns and windmills. The owners of these inspirational properties have used pattern, texture and panache to create truly eclectic and liveable-in spaces.

A new season always puts you in the mood for, well, something new! With this in mind, we've refreshed Country Homes & Interiors to perfectly reflect the spirit of today's modern country aesthetic. We aim to 'live the life... and love the style' in the pages of our print and digital editions, online at country-days.co.uk and through our social platforms. We're also bringing the brand to life through our new video series. See page 10 for details of how you can access all things country – whenever and wherever you are.

Rhoda x

PS: Join us at Heal's, London, on Thursday 8 October, 6pm to 8.15pm, for a design talk: Using British Wool in the Modern Country Home. See page 93 for details.

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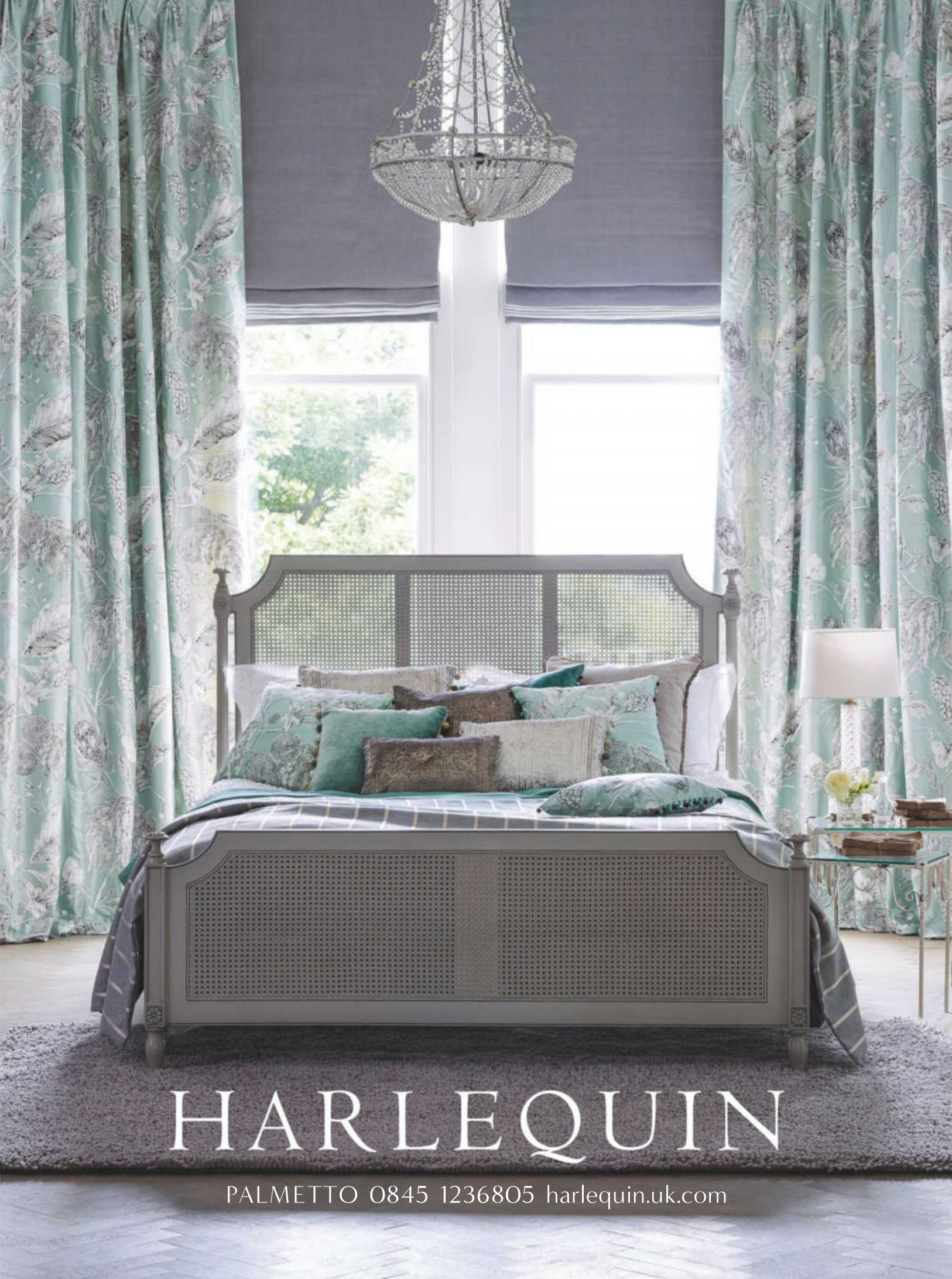
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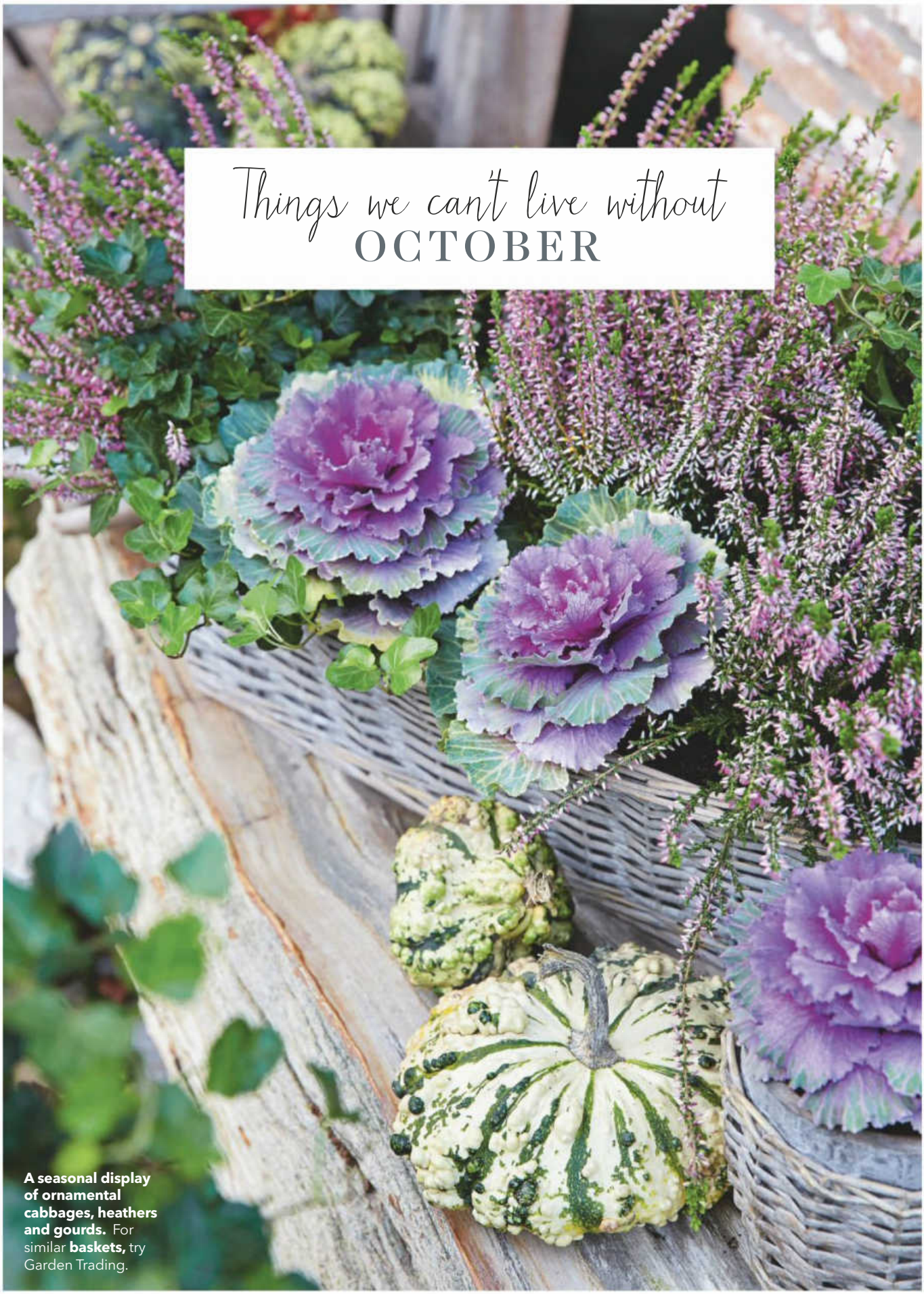
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Things we can't live without OCTOBER



A seasonal display of ornamental cabbages, heathers and gourds. For similar **baskets,** try Garden Trading.



1 Mossy tones on industrial-style lighting. Small utility light, H30x26cm diameter, col Royal Green, £49.95, Dotcomgiftshop.
2 Wrapping up by an outdoor fire in mix-and-match blankets. Merino lambswool throws, from £79 each, Tomic & Daly.
3 Vintage-style zinc accessories for down-to-earth elegance. Small galvanised zinc jug, H19x12cm diameter, £10.99, Pipii.



Fresh-air walks in cosy knits and cashmere. Merino cowl-neck **jumper dress,** col Claret, £95; cashmere rib **beanie,** £60; leather **bag,** £175; **boot socks,** £30; Celt **boots,** £135, all Celtic & Co.

PINTEREST
For more things we can't live without, **follow us at countryhomesmag**



Rustic accessories and the comforting glow of candlelight. Zinc candle **trays,** £3.50 each; birch **candle** with glitter, from £8, both Nordic House. Vintage wooden **crate,** similar from Vintage Crates.



4 Wildlife motifs decorating china. Dreambirds plate, 20.3cm, £16, Ruan Hoffman at Anthropologie. **5 A soothing cuppa in pretty china.** Teacup and saucer, £18, GreenGate at Houseology. **6 A colour burst of ivy decorating a wall.** Zinc planters, H28cm (small), from £13.99, AnJo Home. **7 A stylish perch that doubles as a side table.** Kara stool, H49x35cm diameter, £119, Toast. »



Tactile textures to snuggle beneath. Arran **duvet** set, £80; Murray **duvet** set, £80; **cushions,** from £25; faux fur **throw,** £100; Kennedy **bedstead,** £869, all Linea Home at House of Fraser.



8 Casting dancing shadows at nightfall. Lacework tealight holder, 13cm diameter, col Antique Grey, £14, Berry Red. **9 Hand-printed textiles in muted plum tones.** Hare cushion, 50cm sq, col Rocca Grey, £65, Rapture & Wright. **10 Open log fires with a soothing glow.** Galvanised metal container, from £34.95, Loop the Loop. **11 A healthy breakfast.** Canteen Splash bowl; Speckle side plate, £6 each, both John Lewis.



12 Hearty stews and comforting casseroles. Palm Signature cast-iron round casserole, 20cm diameter, £145, Le Creuset. **13 Making the bed cosy with a huggable hottie.** Old Welsh Blanket hottie cover, H40cm, £28, The Great English Outdoors. **14 Upholstered furniture covered in natural materials.** Oxford ottoman in wool, H38xW90xD60cm, col Stone, £395, Within.



Curling up by a woodburning stove. Four-piece **fireside set,** £120; willow **log carrier,** £60; reindeer **hide,** £195; pine cone **firelighters,** £16.50 for 12, all Cox & Cox.

Colour of THE MOMENT

SOFT HEATHERS AND RICH BERRY HUES BRING WARMTH TO AN AUTUMN COUNTRY HOME. ADD DEPTH WITH TEXTURED WEAVES AND ROMANCE WITH DELICATE FLORALS.



Fabrics (clockwise from top left), Glen Isla, col Tayberry, £70 m, Johnstons of Elgin. Amazilia velvet, col Loganberry/Raspberry/Stone, £88 m, Harlequin. Constance Multi, £65 m, Cabbages & Roses. Quinton Wood, col Violet, £65 m, Romo. Dormston, col Lilac, £68 m, Cloth & Clover. Asuri, col Mulberry, £47.50 m, Romo. **Trims** (right, from top), Lipcord, col Mulberry, £7.50 m, Romo. Pompom fringe, col Aubergine, £4.99 m, Dunelm. Vintage spoons, stylist's own. Tempo **wallpaper** (under spoon handles), G56359, £22.46 a roll, Galerie Wallcoverings. **Paints** (in spoons, clockwise from centre left), Pelt, £38 for 2.5L, Farrow & Ball. Morning-Mist; Antiquary, both £41 for 2.5L, Zoffany. Houndstooth **carpet,** col Heather, £75 m, Padstow collection, Brintons. Glossy **buttons,** 12mm, col Light Purple, £1.20 for 4; Rowan Creative Focus worsted **yarn,** 100g, col Syrah, £8.50, all John Lewis. Pressed **heather,** £3.25 for a large assorted pack, Avonside Flowers. Large zinc **tray,** £14, Nordic House. **Crates,** similar from Vintage Crates.

FEATURE HOLLY PHILLIPS **STYLING** (MOODBOARD) HOLLY PHILLIPS
PHOTOGRAPHS (MAIN) GAP PHOTOS/VISIONS, (MOODBOARD) KATIE HOWEY/ RHAPSODY

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Home notes



We want these now...

Bedeck, known for its luxurious bedding and towels, has launched its first homeware collection, Murmur. We love the chic storage baskets, woven by hand from natural seagrass – they would keep towels or bedlinen organised beautifully or could be a stylish solution to excess laundry! £37 for two.

OUR FAVOURITE DESIGNER MAKER

Jacqueline Colley

Printed textile designer Jacqueline was a winner in *Heal's Discovers 2015* programme, and her Kingfisher designs are printed in the UK on exquisite tea towels, £10 each, Heal's.



What inspires you?
Primarily nature, but I also love looking at how other designers such as William Morris and Josef Frank have interpreted this vast subject area. I enjoy visits to the Natural History Museum, where I discovered the work of John James Audubon. He spent a lifetime creating the most beautiful illustrations of birds in their habitats.
Describe your design process. I spend a lot of time researching my subject before I start drawing. Once I'm happy, I rearrange images in Photoshop until the composition is just right.
How do you like to work?
It's important to get away from your desk and take inspiration from the world. If I didn't, my prints would get very boring!
What's been your proudest moment to date?
Being selected for *Heal's Discovers 2015* has been the highlight of my career. Like any new designer I've had moments of doubt, so it was an amazing validation of my work.
What's next for you?
I am looking to expand my range and find out what other products I can make using British manufacturers. I'm developing prints for deckchairs, and looking to the coast for inspiration.
Describe your creative style in three words.



Maximalist, quirky and British.
For further details, visit jacquelinecolley.co.uk.

FEATURE TARA KING



Gray & Willow wall unit, £2,199, House of Fraser.

Beautiful...practical... everyday

Love simple Scandi

Chic, clean and unfussy in design, this season's Scandi trend is all about relaxed living. House of Fraser's new Gray & Willow brand epitomises this laid-back look, combining beauty and function across a gorgeous range of everyday essentials, including elegant furnishings, smart ceramics, kitchenware, bedlinen and bathroom accessories. The latest collection celebrates the beauty in rustic imperfection; no-frills furniture is blended with soft linens and artisan-inspired accessories, all in a soothing palette of oatmeal, ivory and grey. Fill the glazed wall unit with chunky ceramics and glass to create a warm, homely feel in a country dining room.



ROCK THE LOOK

Country seating doesn't get more stylish than Voyage Maison's Juno Rocker, £634. Crafted from solid beech, it features a Windsor-style spindle back and rustic woven seat. Choose from more than 60 finishes including Mustard, left, which gives the farmhouse classic a modern country twist.

Garden notes

A GRASS WITH THE WOW-FACTOR



***PENNISETUM ALOPECUROIDES* 'HAMELN' This beautifully tactile grass will give you something to smile about right now. The squirrel-tail flowers have a slight pink tinge and cover the plant in a warm, fuzzy glow. It comes into its own just as the rest of the garden is fading and looks a dream with some low autumn sunlight behind it. £8.99 for a 1.5L pot, Waitrose Garden.**

OUR FAVOURITE GARDEN BLOGGER

Louise Curley

Blogger, stylist and writer Louise is happiest when she's in her garden surrounded by plants or at her allotment growing tasty fruit, veg and beautiful cut flowers. Her latest book, *The Crafted Garden* (£16.99, Frances Lincoln), is full of gorgeous country-style projects.



When did your love of gardening start? I was very young. I used to spend my pocket money on house leeks and other succulents! **How do you spend it now?** I have a small front garden, a bigger plot at the back and an allotment – and I still love flowers. I got rid of the lawn and just have deep flowerbeds filled with cottage-style planting. I cram in as many plants as possible. **Where do you find your inspiration?** It's about being connected with the seasons. I get into the garden as much as possible, then bring it indoors, picking flowers, making bits and pieces – and taking things from holidays and trips to create reminders. **What do you love about autumn?** It's that sense of abundance, the slight nip in the air. The light can be so pretty. Then there's the fruit and veg, the gorgeous seedheads… It's the time of year when everything comes together. My creative projects help me get through the colder months – it's time to sit down and start making things. **Can you suggest an autumn 'make' that even the least creative could manage?** The pumpkin vases in my book are really simple. You can find gourds and mini pumpkins at greengrocers at this time of year, and just hollow them out, fill with water, then pick a few pretty flowers to display in them. Dahlias look great.



They make a lovely centre-piece for a dinner party. **wellywoman.wordpress.com.**



Bury a carpet of colour

There's something magical about bulb planting. You tuck them away in autumn, ignore them for six months, then you're rewarded with an explosion of colour, just when you'd forgotten all about them. In practical terms, it's easy: plant at three times the depth of the bulb, tip pointing up, always in natural-looking clumps of at least five – toss bulbs gently onto the ground and plant where they land. If you have a lot to put in, it's worth investing in a long-handled planter. For something unusual next spring, try the Turkish tulip *Tulipa acuminata*, star-shaped sky-blue chionodoxa, exotic-looking *Fritillaria meleagris* or dainty blue-violet ipheion.



We want this now...

Birds start viewing potential homes in autumn, so now's the perfect time to put up a box. We like the modern country style of the Elegance nestbox, H39cm, £26.99, Wildlife World.

FEATURE FRANCESCA CLARKE **PHOTOGRAPHS** (PENNISETUM) GAP PHOTOS/DIANNA JAZWINSKI, (LOUISE CURLEY) JASON INGRAM, (PUMPKINS) GAP PHOTOS/VISIONS, (BULBS) GAP PHOTOS

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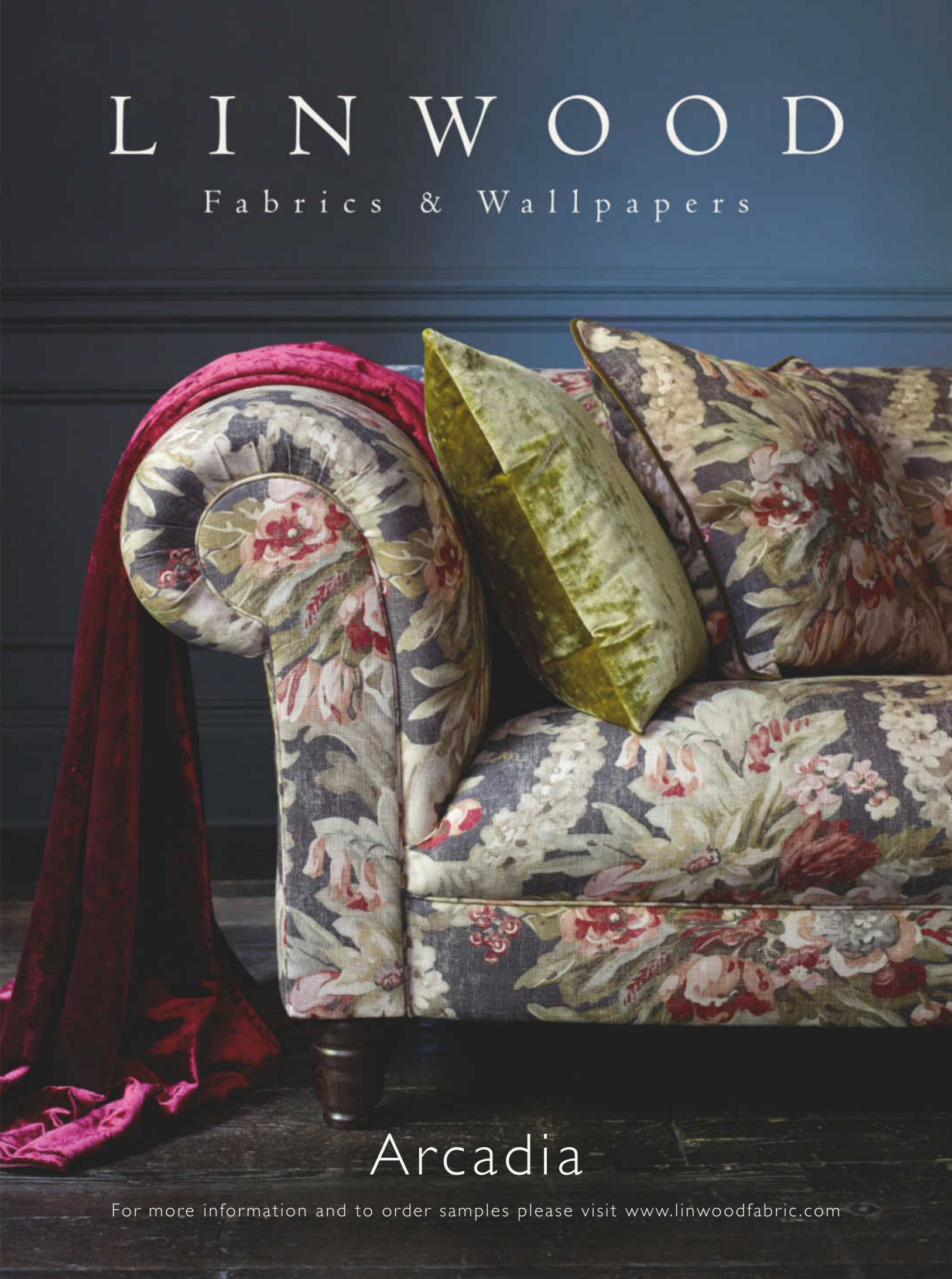


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Food notes



We want this now...

For warming autumn suppers, casserole dishes are top of our wishlist. This elegant design is part of the collection by Sophie Conran for Portmeirion. Her fresh and timeless tableware can be used for everyday meals, as well as formal dining. And with its polished finish and delicate ripple design, this casserole is stylish enough for the centre of any table. Porcelain handled casserole dish, 1.75L, £44, Sophie Conran for Portmeirion, John Lewis.

OUR FAVOURITE HERDSWOMAN

Lucy Warren

Lucy has been a member of the team at Yeo Valley's Holt Farm in Somerset since October 2014, and grew up on a dairy farm just a few miles away. Founded in 1961 by Roger and Mary Mead with just 30 cows, Yeo Valley has become the UK's number one organic dairy brand and now has a 400-strong herd.



What do you love about your job? No two cows are the same. I know each one as an individual and can monitor every animal and know their quirks. All of our cows have names and we know their birthdays, too! We even have a detailed family tree for each cow. This means that for breeding, we can choose the ones with the best qualities for milking.

What makes Yeo Valley so special? While we've grown in size, the heart of the business is still just the same. We support British family farms and have recently started to source produce from organic family farms like ours.

Have you won any awards? Yeo Valley has three Queen's Awards for Enterprise for its commitment to sustainable development. Mary has also won the BBC Radio 4 Farmer of the Year award – in the farming world that's like winning an Oscar.

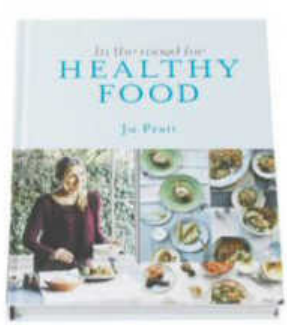
Any seasonal recipe ideas? I love the braised steak in ale with a herby cobbler topping (made from our yogurt) in *The Great British Farmhouse Cookbook* by Sarah Mayor (£20, Quadrille). It's perfect in autumn for warming you up after a day on the farm. **For more information, visit yeovalley.co.uk.**





Go wild for wet walnuts

The first of this season's just-picked wet walnuts are available now – a real treat as they're around for a few weeks only. Walnuts can be used in homemade pesto and are delectable in a variety of breads. They can also be added to a basic crumble topping or in pastry recipes. And, of course, the star of any afternoon tea is a gorgeous double-decked coffee and walnut cake. For a quick autumn salad, we love this idea from Riverford: mix 125g grated Cheddar, 75g chopped walnuts and 1 chopped garlic clove and stuff into 8 sticks of celery you have cut into 10cm sections. Grill until the cheese melts.



Feel-good flavour kick

In the Mood for Healthy Food **by Jo Pratt (£20, Nourish Books) is full of delicious recipes such as kale guacamole or chocolate and pumpkin brownies. Plus, there are suggestions for pull-out-the-stops entertaining – how about beetroot gnocchi with walnut and watercress pesto?**

FEATURE SARAH WILSON RECIPE RIVERFORD, RIVERFORD.CO.UK PHOTOGRAPH (BOOK) RHAPSODY

Out & about



Visit an apple festival

Head to Southwell in Nottinghamshire to celebrate the cultivation of the first Bramley apple tree over 200 years ago, at the Bramley Apple Festival. You'll find cookery demos, street entertainment and the crowning of a Bramley apple king and queen! Plus, don't miss the heritage walking trail, including a visit to the original tree which still bears fruit today (24 October, experiencenottinghamshire.com/southwell). Or venture into the Garden of England where you can trundle through the orchards on a tractor tour and try over 400 apple varieties at the Brogdale National Apple Festival in Kent (17 to 18 October), applefestivalkent.co.uk.

The place to eat...

Enjoy afternoon tea in opulent surroundings at the newly opened World of Wedgwood Tea Room in Stoke-on-Trent. Choose from over 50 delicious teas served in the finest china, plus contemporary and indulgent cakes. Then explore the factory and the shop. Visit worldofwedgwood.com.





ON COURSE

Learn about creating your own autumn arrangements on a hand-tied floristry course in Hampshire. The one-day course at The Real Flower Company with tutor Rosebie Morton on 23 October costs £150, including materials, lunch and your bouquet to take home. Call 01730 818300 or visit realflowers.co.uk.

OUR FAVOURITE SHOP

White & McLeod

Set in the heart of Woburn Sands in Bedfordshire, shop owner Charlotte White runs a charming independent boutique, filled with lifestyle gifts for the home.



What inspired you to open White & McLeod? My background is in radio and library work, but I'd never had my own shop before. A test run at the Woburn Sands Christmas fayre was a fantastic success, and with lots of support from the local community, it spurred me on to make the shop a reality. I opened White & McLeod in July 2014 taking over the former butcher's shop which had stood empty for years. The aim of my business was to put great designs and gifts back onto the high street.

How would you describe the shop's style? I can't count the times I've needed an emergency present for a children's party or a thank you for a friend. I really hope my shop solves these present dilemmas by providing a range of gifts, large and small, from designers that customers may already know, or from exciting, local businesses we want to showcase, including children's clothing, soft toys, furniture, lighting and homeware.

What makes your shop so special?
We stock a range of luxury stationery from Harris & Jones. These beautiful and practical products are handmade locally by my good friends Steve and Ness. Our extra services, such as gift-wrapping and click-and-collect, have proved to be popular, too, and we're also running gift-wrapping workshops, which are great fun. I hope they'll go from strength to strength as the festive season approaches.
White & McLeod, 1a High Street, Woburn Sands, Bedfordshire MK17 8RQ, 01908 584754, whiteandmcleod.com.



FEATURE COLUMBA COLIVET **PHOTOGRAPH** (APPLES) BROGDALE COLLECTIONS

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*Source: The NPD Group value sales Jan-Dec 2014. **Consumer test conducted in the UK on 377 women.

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CLARINS



Life's rich pattern

STEP INSIDE AMELIA HEGGIE'S GRADE II-LISTED HOME AND YOU'LL FIND A WORLD OF COLOUR AND COSINESS



Garden Smart rows of topiary balls line the brickwork path to the idyllic cottage. **Woodwork,** painted in Pigeon by Farrow & Ball.

Bridle path Amelia gathers up bracken for indoor arrangements. »





Kitchen Patchwork floor tiles add a decorative touch. **Units, butcher's block,** similar from Unfitted. **Floor tiles,** Topps Tiles. **Door,** painted in Oval Room Blue by Farrow & Ball.



What we love most about living here...

'The new friends we have made from being in a small community and the beautiful surroundings that we're fortunate enough to live in'







Dining room Bird motif wallpaper chimes with the country vibe. **Wallpaper,** Daniel Heath. **Table,** Oka.



Kitchen dining area
Amelia's confident use of stripes and patterns sings out here, punctuated by a fringed pendant. **Blind, cushions,** Mulberry Home. **Pendant,** Rothschild & Bickers. **Table,** Pigeon Vintage Furniture. **Chairs,** Cult Furniture. »



Living room A dramatic fabric on the Chesterfield adds warmth. **Sofa,** Nimmo & Spooner, **covered in** Flying Ducks by Mulberry Home. **Coffee table,** Foxed Grey. **Side table,** Daniel Heath. **Walls,** painted in Pale Portland Stone by Little Greene.

'We both grew up in the country, me in Kent and my husband, Iain, in Surrey, so we wanted our children to have a similar rural upbringing,' says Amelia Heggie. 'We needed space for the children to roam and be free. We also wanted a lifestyle change.'

At the time, Amelia and Iain were living in London. 'We ran a pop-up pub at Goodwood for work and fell in love with the area. As we wanted to be within easy reach of London and be surrounded by pretty countryside, West Sussex ticked all the boxes.' The hunt was then on for a house. 'We were looking for village life so didn't want to be too rural. We were keen to have the best of both worlds.'

A chocolate-box-pretty cottage came up for sale that seemed just right. 'It was luck and timing,' says Amelia. 'We hadn't sold our house in London and this was the first house we looked at. I drove like a maniac to view it and put in an offer within seconds of leaving the house. Iain hadn't even seen it! The estate agents said, "Are you sure, Mrs Heggie? Don't you want your husband to see it first?"'

The cottage was quite compact and had a small garden, but that didn't deter Amelia. 'The owner asked if I'd be able to squeeze three children in, but I said I definitely would! It was in a good state of repair, so we wouldn't have to spend crazy money on it. We could just redecorate, yet still put our stamp on it,' she says.

As the interior was dark, Amelia painted the rooms off-white to maximise the natural light. 'I put in lots of glass pendants, too,' she says. The kitchen units were natural wood and Amelia wanted to make a statement with the flooring, so chose patchwork ceramic tiles that are practical as well as eyecatching. Vibrant rugs add colour and pattern elsewhere. 'I wanted to create an eclectic urban, country-cottage look with a modern twist,' she says. 'I was keen to add pops of colour with accessories and lights, as well as vintage and slightly industrial elements.' She also had a great excuse to buy new furniture. 'Having downsized from our house in London, we had to replace the sofas and dining room table and chairs because they didn't fit. We bought antique sofas and had them re-covered.'

Pattern and colour play their part throughout, with feature walls in striking wallpapers and furniture in vibrant shades. Amelia's signature style is mixing and matching colours and patterns, which gives her schemes a modern edge. 'When creating this home, I've been ruled mainly by my heart, not my head. If I love something, it makes me happy and helps create a cosy atmosphere,' she says.

It took about a year before the house felt like home, but country life has been a huge success. 'We're happier here than in London. The country wins over the city – life is slower, but there's more of a community. We know the neighbours and the postman. The children love it, as there's loads for them to do. They have freedom and the chance to explore. It's the quintessential English country life.' »

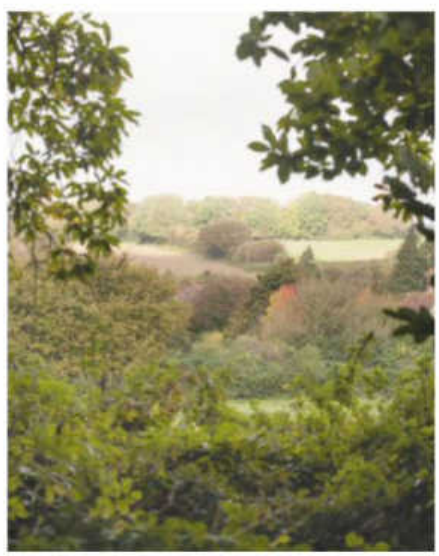
☎ **Denim Interiors, deniminteriors.com.**

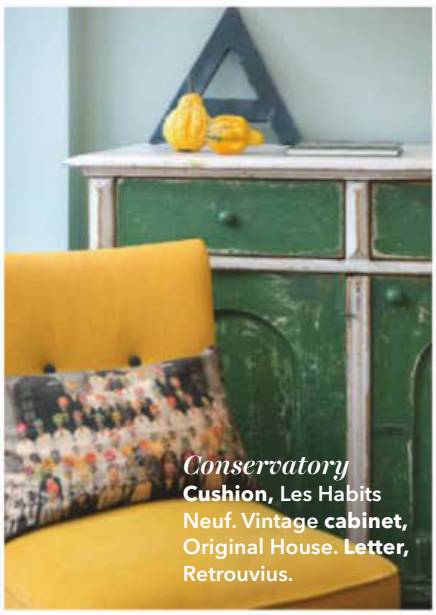


AT HOME WITH...

Owners Amelia Heggie, who runs interior design company Denim Interiors, and her husband, Iain, owner of The Exceptional English Wine Company. They live here with their three children, Coco, 11, Bruno, nine, and Rocco, six. They moved in two-and-a-half years ago.

House Grade II-listed cottage dating from the 1800s with four bedrooms.

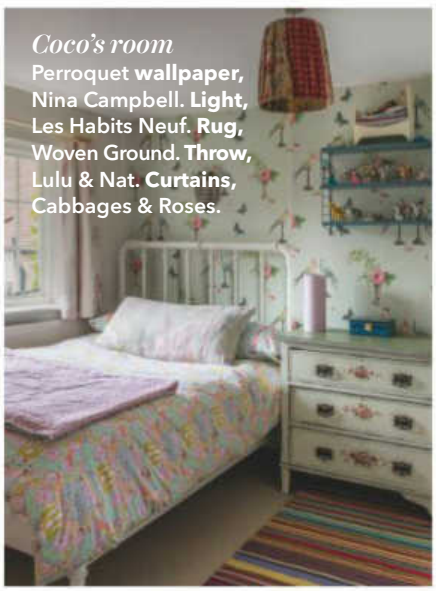




Conservatory **Cushion,** Les Habits Neuf. Vintage **cabinet,** Original House. **Letter,** Retrouvius.



Bruno and Rocco's room Simple grey beds and pendant anchor this lively scheme. High Wire **wallpaper,** Daniel Heath. **Pendant,** Holloways of Ludlow. **Beds,** The Dormy House. **Bedlinen,** Cath Kidston. **Throws,** Holly's House.



Coco's room Perroquet **wallpaper,** Nina Campbell. **Light,** Les Habits Neuf. **Rug,** Woven Ground. **Throw,** Lulu & Nat. **Curtains,** Cabbages & Roses.

What makes this house a home...

'A collection of my favourite things, old and new, and my favourite people all in one place'



Hallway Pendant **lights,** Urban Cottage Industries.



Bathroom A rolltop bath and tongue-and-groove panelling lend a classic cottage look. **Bath,** similar from Drummonds. **Towel,** Cath Kidston. **Ampersand,** Solid ID.





Main bedroom Acid brights and mixed pattern underpin this exuberant scheme. The striped cushion on the window seat is vintage Moroccan. **Curtains,** Louise Body. **Pillowcase,** heart **cushion,** Lulu & Nat. Seat **pad,** Lelievre. »

ON OUR DOORSTEP...

Visit... 'Woolbeding Gardens (0844 249 1895, nationaltrust.org.uk) in Midhurst. At Halloween they have a spectacular spooky trail that frightens me as much as the children!'

Shop at... 'The Bottom Stable (07851 742155, thebottomstable.co.uk) in the pretty village of Lurgashall. It's a lovely vintage and industrial interiors shop.'

Go for a meal at... 'Noah's Ark Inn (01428 707346, noahsarkinn.co.uk) next door to The Bottom Stable, which overlooks the cricket green. It does traditional British food with a contemporary twist.' »

Porch Logs are piled neatly in a handy nook, protected from the elements. **Chair,** Holly's House. **Cushion,** Les Habits Neufs.

FEATURE VIVIENNE AYERS **PHOTOGRAPHS** POLLY ELTES

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Make yourself at home

Bring cosy comfort to colder months with sumptuous velvets and rich colours

Eva sofa in Fox velvet £2,175; Velvet cushions from £40, Tolsey rug £340,
Fox and Cranberry Velvet £40 per metre, Chestnut paint from £34

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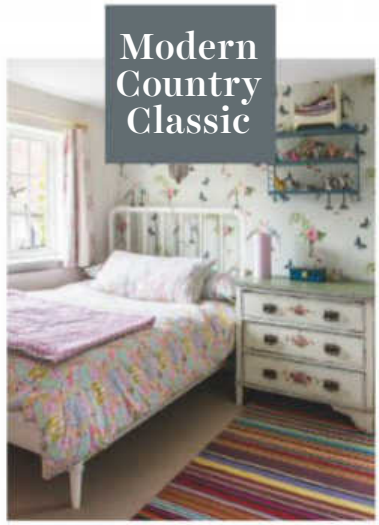
NEPTUNE



Invest in comfort to ensure sweet dreams. Oliver single **bed** with Lewis mattress, £474, Feather & Black.



Add feminine florals. Natural Hatley Raspberry **linen,** £48 m, Cabbages & Roses. Butterfly **quilt,** £109, Bouf.



Upcycled drawers

Refresh an old chest or give a new buy vintage appeal.

Need to know...

Give free rein to your creativity by jazzing up a plain chest of drawers to suit your bedroom scheme. To give a new chest a gently-aged finish, paint a base coat then cover with a contrasting colour. Gently rub the edges of the chest with sandpaper to reveal the layers. To decorate, outline drawers in a contrasting paint shade then paint motifs freehand. Try a floral stencil if you don't have a steady hand. Complete with decorative knobs.

Where to buy...

- **Henny Donovan Motif** for blossom sprig stencils.
- **Leporello** for furniture with bespoke hand-painted motifs.
- **Surface Candy** for floral knobs.



Choose vintage-style storage for clothes. Venice **chest of drawers,** col Ivory, £995, Sweetpea & Willow.

Be inspired by Amelia's child's bedroom

FIND THE PERFECT BIRD WALLPAPER



1 Cole & Son Winter Birds, £90 a roll; **2** Nina Campbell Perroquet, £64 a roll; **3** Birdcage Walk, £56 a roll, all Wallpapers of Distinction.



Ground the look with eye-catching colours. Feel multi stripe flatweave wool **rug,** 240x170cm, £250, Heal's.

For more ideas go to housetohome.co.uk/countryhomesandinteriors



Pick a patterned duvet for prettiness in an instant. Paisley Print **bedlinen,** from £17.99 for 2 pillowcases, Zara Home.

FEATURE ROSY JOHNSON, CAROLINE RODRIGUES

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Make yourself at home

Create a kitchen where the welcome is warm, cooking is a joy and everyone loves to gather

Suffolk kitchen lovingly hand-painted in Charcoal with brass handles and perfectly irregular Elcot tiles.

Corinium lidded jar and serving platter from £36

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Eclectic elegance

HATTIE GOODLEY TRANSFORMED A LAMBING SHED INTO A CONTEMPORARY HOME FILLED WITH PLAYFUL TOUCHES



Kitchen Coloured metal stools give the curved island a casual feel. **Stools,** similar from Made in Design. **Cabinetry,** Bryan Turner Kitchen Furniture. **Walls,** painted in Setting Plaster by Farrow & Ball.

Hallway A Swedish cabinet (left) makes a bold statement beneath a wall mirror. **Cabinet,** The Old Stables at Bayfield Hall. **Mirror,** Graham and Green. »



Dining area Contemporary chairs complement two handmade tables. **Chairs,** The Conran Shop. **Console table,** Ann May & Daughter.



AT HOME WITH...

Owners Hattie Goodley, who owns Willa and the Bear, which designs and makes pyjamas and bedding for babies and children, and her husband, James, who runs the family farm that surrounds their home. They moved here two years ago, with their daughter, Willa, two.

House A recent conversion of a collection of early-20th-century agricultural buildings.

Hattie Goodley is a well-travelled woman. Having worked in long-haul travel, visiting and living in exotic locations, she has assembled a fabulous collection of textiles, rugs, sculptures, figures, paintings and fragments of pottery from all over the world. Now, she lives in Norfolk with her husband, James, and daughter, Willa, and has brought her love of rich colour and playful touches to the contemporary barn they designed and renovated together.

'I always brought back things with sharp shots of bright colour, which are so evocative of the places I visited,' says Hattie. Her home is a riot of colour and pattern; a successful blend of classic and modern country style.

The barn where Hattie and James now live was once a lambing shed and part of his family's farm. The lambing shed had never been lived in and was dilapidated and derelict – in some areas walls had completely collapsed. They started to rebuild and repair, working with the footprint of the original building, and their architect persuaded them to add curves to the internal structure to create a contemporary country conversion.

'Initially, I had concerns about living in a barn; about too many hard lines and too much wood,' says Hattie. 'But the soft lines make it feel more like a farmhouse than an outhouse.'

Inside, some walls are finished in off-white shades while others are original brick and flint, which adds to the authenticity of the building. 'We tried to keep as many of the old walls as possible,' »



Living room
A beautiful rug and piles of clashing cushions bring comfort and colour to neutral sofas. **Rug,** Graham and Green. **Cushions,** Niki Jones. **Cupboard,** The Old Stables at Bayfield Hall.



What we love most about living here...

'The space, the light, a sense of the changing seasons and a wonderful feeling of connecting with where we live'

Cloakroom **Pink painted tongue and groove with a green pictorial wallpaper gives a compact space a fresh look. Wallpaper,** Anthropologie. **Mirror,** Oka.



says Hattie. 'They are arranged in such interesting patterns, and very much a reminder that this was an agricultural building.'

The ground floor mainly comprises a large open-plan living space, which combines a huge kitchen, dining area and informal living room, effectively separated from the kitchen by a stunning cylindrical storage cupboard. 'We call it "the drum", and it hides the supporting steel pillar,' says Hattie. 'It was a clever solution and it's a lovely piece of furniture, too.'

An enormous island dominates the kitchen area, providing space for washing up, food preparation and for people to sit and chat. 'The majority of the kitchen storage is contained in the island, but the whole thing works because the room is so big,' says Hattie.

Like the kitchen area, the rest of the ground floor has been designed to be as practical as possible. For most of the floors Hattie chose limestone, big flagstones that are hardwearing and pretty low maintenance – ideal for country life. 'We have four dogs, and this is a working farm, so there is a constant influx of muddy paws and boots. Everything in this house has to be user-friendly.'

Their architect also had a hand in creating the modern, open staircase in the living room. 'To begin with, I thought it should be more traditional, but he didn't agree, and he was right,' Hattie says. 'This design allows light to flood through the structure into the living space.'

The recurring contrast between old and new gives the barn a timeless feel. The overall look is relaxed. Hattie decorated using »



Rear garden **The back of the barn has two gable ends, creating space for a walled garden in the centre. Decking terraces were built for sunny days and evenings.**

Guest room **This colourful haven is inspired by a bedcover Hattie brought back from Asia. Cushion,** curtain **fabric,** both Susie Watson Designs. **Quilt,** similar from Belinda Davies Eiderdowns.



Guest room
Large bamboo tray tables are a luxurious touch.**Tables,** The Old Stables at Bayfield Hall.



Willa's bedroom
A distressed pink cabinet holds Willa's clothes. **Cupboard,** Graham and Green.



ON OUR DOORSTEP...

Visit... 'Houghton Hall (01485 528569, houghtonhall.com), near King's Lynn, for its spectacular gardens and art exhibitions.'

Shop at... 'Birdie Fortescue (01328 738634.birdiefortescue.co.uk), in Burnham Market, for homewares and antiques.'

Go for a meal at... 'Wiveton Hall Café (01263 740515, wivetonhall.co.uk), in Wiveton, which looks out to sea. Or, try The Hoste (01328 738777, thehoste.com), in Burnham Market, for really good modern British food.'

a palette of ice-cream pastels, bright primaries and warm neutral shades. She chose mainly inexpensive contemporary furniture, fun pieces that will withstand the ups and downs of family life, and filled the rooms with much-loved pieces sourced from her collection and her passion for shopping on Ebay. 'We are at the stage in our lives when all our friends have small children, and we don't want to have to be too precious about things,' says Hattie.

The two beautiful dining tables, however, were made from Norfolk oak by a boat-builder friend. 'I saw the actual tree arrive in his workshop,' says Hattie.

The original end wall of the living room in the higgledy-piggledy pattern of brick and flint work provides a backdrop to the modern staircase with open oak treads and glass balustrade that leads up to the guest wing. In this ostensibly contemporary setting, Hattie has softened the bedrooms with some exquisitely beautiful curtains, blinds and headboards in fabrics inspired by 18th- and 19th-century French textiles. There are very pretty floral and paisley eiderdowns, coverlets and quilts on the beds.

Having travelled widely, visiting and living in wonderfully interesting and exciting places, Hattie is now very happily settled in this tranquil, peaceful part of rural Norfolk. 'This place is all about the views. Every morning I raise the bedroom blinds and, whatever the season, I look out and just count myself so lucky.'

☎ Willa and the Bear, willaandthebear.com. »

FEATURE JANE GRAINING **PHOTOGRAPHS** JODY STEWART

SEE PAGE 163 FOR PHONE NUMBERS AND WEBSITES



Main bedroom A fabric wall hanging makes a stunning headboard. **Fabric,** Nicole Fabre Designs. Vintage **eiderdown,** Belinda Davies Eiderdowns. **Bedside table,** Ikea. **Walls,** painted in Bone by Farrow & Ball.

What makes this house a home...

'Even when completely derelict, this building had a lovely feel, and from the minute we moved in, it felt like home'



Collect fun accessories. Biscuit **jar,** H28cm, £12.95, Dotcomgiftshop. **Antelope head,** H42cm, £75, Out There Interiors.



Bake in farmhouse style. Total Control **range cooker,** W98.7cm, col Duck Egg Blue, from £10,695, Aga.



Modern Country Classic

Vintage-style seats

Whether painted in jolly colours or exposed metal, bar stools and chairs bring bistro chic to a kitchen.

Need to know...

These bar chairs and stools are a tried and trusted design. The originals, with a distinct flavour of 1930s France, were designed by sheet metal manufacturer and entrepreneur Xavier Pauchard. Tolix is the brand to look out for – authentic stools will have a back stamp. For a contemporary alternative, check out bright aluminium or chrome-finish chairs, or go for an industrial look that teams metal with wood or leather seats.

Where to buy...

- **The Conran Shop** for authentic Tolix.
- **Cox & Cox** for zinc-finish swivel stools.
- **Rockett St George** for a range of vintage-style bar stools.

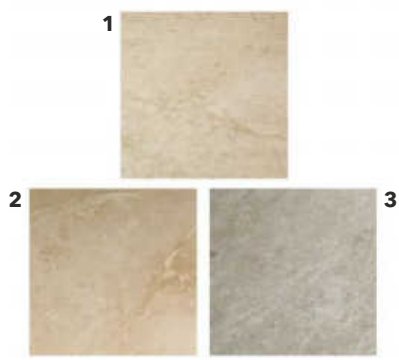


Sit up high for casual meals. Tolix lacquered steel **bar stool,** col Green, from £156, Connections at Home.

Be inspired by Hattie's kitchen diner

FIND THE PERFECT

MARBLE FLOOR TILES



1 Crema Nova, from £42 sq m; **2** Sofiya Beige, from £40 sq m; **3** Diana Royal, from £45 sq m, all Polished Marble, Floors of Stone.



Toast a slice. The Haven **toaster,** £189.95, Dualit. **Chopping block,** W46cm, £222, Houseology.

For more ideas go to housetohome.co.uk/countryhomesandinteriors



Boil water on the hob. Master Class Deluxe Farmhouse Style heavy duty **kettle,** £59.95, Kitchencraft.

FEATURE CELIA CAMPBELL, CAROLINE RODRIGUES

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Lochside living

FAMILY CONNECTIONS AND THE BEAUTY OF THE VIEWS INSPIRED ARTIST CARRIE GOLDSMITH TO CREATE A MODERN COUNTRY GETAWAY



Outside The Goldmiths' cottage sits on the banks of Loch Knockie and the family moor their boats to the jetty ready for fishing expeditions. »



House **A slate roof and whitewashed walls make for a picture-perfect cottage complete with its porch and fence painted green to echo the surroundings. Porch, fencing painted in Wild Thyme by Cuprinol.**



AT HOME WITH...

Owners **Artist Carrie Goldsmith and her husband Hugh, a music producer, who bought this house in 2011 as a Highland getaway. Their children, Jay, 21, Poppy, 19, and Milo, 16, are also frequent visitors.**

House **A three-bedroom cottage built in the late 19th century.**

A lochside property without any view of the loch is not, on the surface, the stuff property dreams are made of. But, tucked away in one of the Highland's most picturesque estates and packed with family history, this little cottage was something Carrie and Hugh Goldsmith couldn't pass up.

'Hugh has been going to the cottage all his life,' says Carrie. 'It has been in his family for generations. This place also reminds me of a particular corner of my native Canada, so it's special to both of us for different reasons.'

When they took the cottage on, it was humble to say the least. It boasted just a few gas rings, and brown, peaty water came out of the taps.

Carrie and Hugh gutted the upside-down property, installing a new roof and raising the ceilings to let the light in. They moved the bedrooms back upstairs and, in turn, the small kitchen on the first floor came down to ground level. The ground floor itself was reconfigured to give a large open-plan kitchen and dining-cum-living area. The changes were dramatic, but the couple were careful not to lose any of the building's original charm.

'When we got hold of the cottage we wanted to celebrate the property rather than start again,' says Carrie. 'Although the layout had to be modernised so every room could cater for family life, we »



Living area Carrie opted for a palette of marine colours in this open-plan space. Rustic textures include the wool sofa and an upholstered armchair from the 1930s found on Ebay. Wool **sofa,** Sofa Workshop. **Rug,** John Lewis.



Kitchen A reclaimed pine dining table takes centre stage. Custom-made **table,** antique **chairs,** Haus Interiors. **Units** painted in Pigeon by Farrow & Ball. **Tiles,** Fired Earth.





Living area
The woodburner is backed by textural rustic slate tiles and a simple wooden mantel. Woodburner, Charnwood.

deliberately refrained from using anything that looked too contemporary.'

And so an 18-month search began of village fêtes, charity shops and Ebay to find just the right items to furnish their new home. The result is a cottage that now has a sense of integrity, as well as homeliness. 'I wanted it to feel cosy and cottagey, not new and soulless,' says Carrie. She has achieved what she wanted in part by her use of colour – choosing sage and mossy greens that not only reflect the watery colours of the loch, but also help give the cottage a nostalgic feel.

'These shades of green are a total obsession for me – my brush is always drawn towards them,' says Carrie. Combining her favourite shades with rich aubergines and organic woodland tones, the result is a palette that very much reflects the lichen, heather and russet hues of the location.

The authentic feel is complemented with extensive use of tongue-and-groove panelling, as well as the deliberate choice of handmade and reclaimed items, such as the 1940s bathroom mirror and vintage Salter bathroom scales, plus the many early 20th-century canvases painted by family members.

More importantly, perhaps, for Carrie and Hugh, the lack of a beautiful watery view has also been »





Main bedroom Carrie uses contrasting materials to add layers of interest. **Bed,** The Bed Warehouse Direct. 'Dog' **cushion,** Arcadia Interiors.



Deck (Left) This is a favourite place to sit and enjoy the view. **Picnic table,** Sustainable Furniture. **Blanket,** The Edinburgh Wool Mill.

addressed by clearing away the trees between the cottage and the water and building a deck with French doors leading out to it. After all, what's the point of being right on a loch if you can't reap the visual benefit?

'Many days here are about cosy fires and hillwalking, but the colours are especially stunning at this time of year and I think the view is still the best part of any visit,' says Carrie. 'I like to go out first thing in the morning and enjoy a cup of coffee when the loch is still and looks like a mirror. We also like to get wrapped up and come out at night to stargaze and listen to the owls. There is zero light pollution so you can see everything so clearly.'

The 'new' cottage is also a big hit with the extended family. Though it functions as a family bolthole for most of the year, the house becomes a highly sociable space capable of hosting big groups for occasions such as Easter and New Year, with guests spilling out into the garden to camp overnight.

'We're very grateful that we have had the chance to create our own home here,' says Carrie. 'It is important that five generations on from the original occupants, the family once again gets the chance to appreciate it.'

ON OUR DOORSTEP...

Visit... 'Loch Ness (01456 450395, lochness-cruises.com). The perfect outing for a crisp autumn day, boats sail from Fort Augustus.'

Shop at... 'That Cute Little Highland Shop (01320 366854, littlehighlandshop.com), also in Fort Augustus, for lovely handcrafted goods.'

Go for a meal at... 'The Dores Inn (01463 751203) in Dores. We love the atmosphere.'



Bathroom The traditional fixtures and fittings give this space a classic feel, while a driftwood mirror injects a rustic twist. **Roll-top bath and basin,** Bathstore. Driftwood **mirror,** Reclaimed-Remade at Ebay. »

FEATURE JESSICA KIDDLE **PHOTOGRAPHS** DOUGLAS GIBB

SEE PAGE 163 FOR PHONE NUMBERS AND WEBSITES



Add a touch of tartan. Lambswool **cushion** in McKellar, £49.95, Bronte By Moon.



Be inspired by the colours of nature. Deknudt **mirror** 2626, H128xW108cm, £533, Houseology. **Cup and saucer,** £18.75, Denby.



Modern Country Classic

Tongue-and-groove panelling

This traditional wall finish is back in vogue for country homes.

Need to know...

Tongue-and-groove cladding is made up of individual wooden boards that slot together and are 'secret nailed' to battens then painted but, for ease and speed, sheets of MDF with the v-joint profile already routed give a similar look and, unlike wood, will not shrink. When fitting around windows or other room features, aim to arrange boards to create a symmetrical finish.

Where to buy...

- **Andrew Martin** for tongue-and-groove lookalike 'Cabin' wallpaper.
- **The English Panelling Company** for MDF panelling.
- **Wickes** for softwood tongue-and-groove cladding.



Introduce rustic accessories. Log **basket,** £25, Store. Green glass **bowl,** H12cm, £23.99, Wayfair.

Be inspired by

Carrie's living room

For more ideas go to housetohome.co.uk/countryhomesandinteriors

FIND THE PERFECT WARMING PAINT



1 Mouse's Back; **2** Old White; **3** New White, all from £38 for 2.5L, Farrow & Ball.



Choose seating with classic good looks. George **sofa** in Urban Denim, H79xW186xD92cm, £1,589, Sofa Workshop.

FEATURE ROSY JOHNSON, CAROLINE RODRIGUES **PHOTOGRAPHS** (PAINT) RHAPSODY

SEE PAGE 163 FOR PHONE NUMBERS AND WEBSITES

















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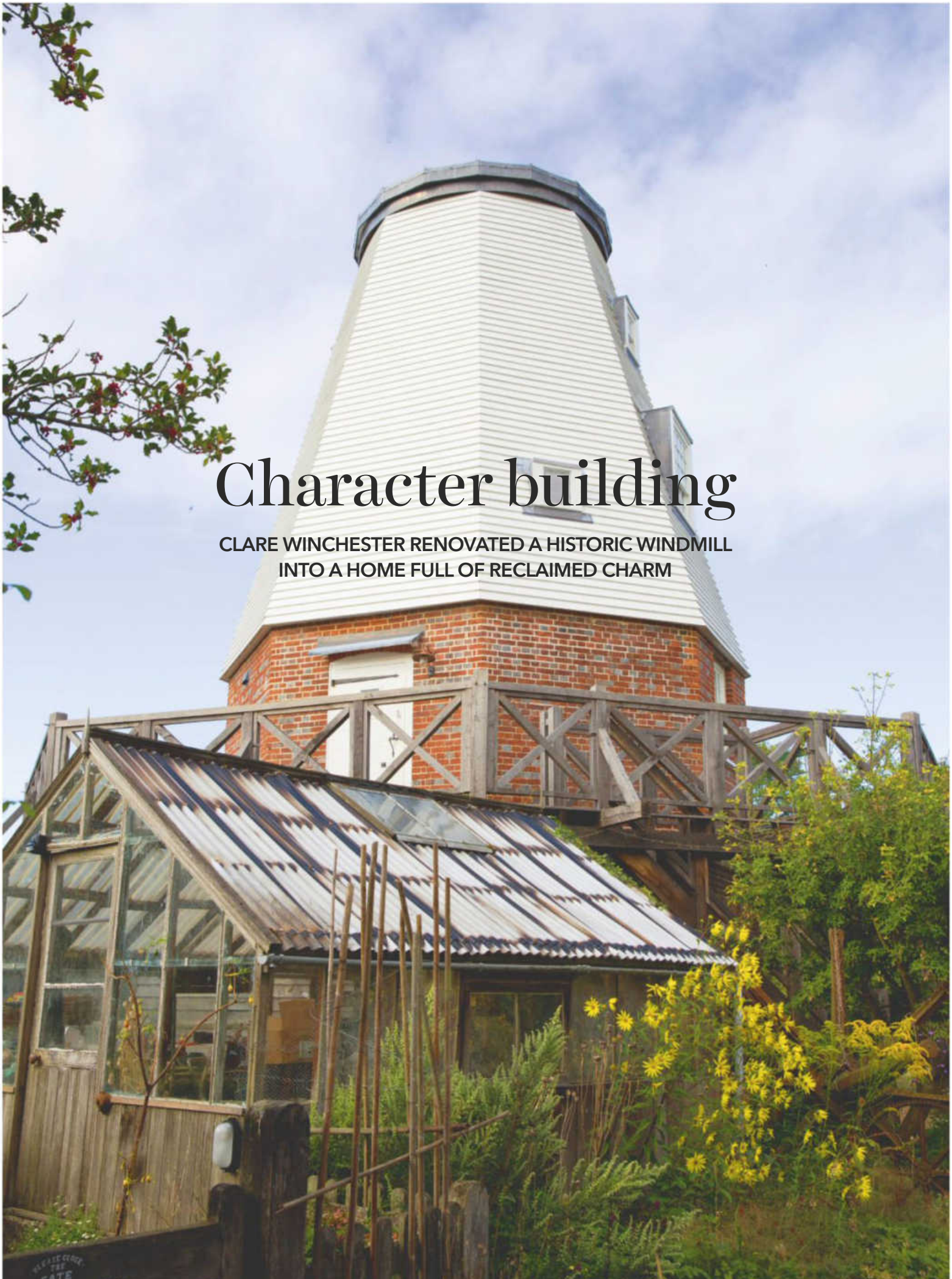
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Character building

CLARE WINCHESTER RENOVATED A HISTORIC WINDMILL INTO A HOME FULL OF RECLAIMED CHARM



Windmill This rustic structure in the centre of the Winchesters' large back garden now houses a granny annexe and guest accommodation above. The oak staging (originally for the miller to check the sails) has been remade and provides a terrace space from which to enjoy the countryside.

Kitchen Clare rescued old scaffolding boards, due for the scrap heap, and turned them into characterful shelving. »



Kitchen **Units made by Clare's carpenter span three sides of the octagonal room. Sink,** Astracast. **Taps,** Ardingly Antiques Fair. **Walls,** painted in Mole's Breath by Farrow & Ball.



AT HOME WITH...

Owners **Clare Winchester and her husband David, a GP. They moved here in 2004 with their four children, who are now grown up and have left home. The couple live here with their two Golden Labradors, Honey and Ash.**

House **A renovated Grade II-listed windmill, dating from about 1850.**

When you move to a new house you might discover a crumbling greenhouse in the garden, or an unfinished water feature, but rarely a 19th-century windmill. That was what dominated the rambling grounds of Clare and David Winchester's charming cottage. 'We loved the cottage and the gardens, and saw the windmill as a wonderful bonus,' says Clare. 'But with four young children, our priority was to extend the cottage. The windmill would have to come later.'

Time went by and before they could even think about restoring the Grade II-listed mill, Clare spent two years researching avenues for funding assistance. 'Sadly, the windmill never ticked any of the right boxes, so our earliest challenge was deciding what it would become.' Clearly the family were not going to produce their own flour, but using the building for accommodation did make sense. 'When my parents grew interested in the possibility of living in the ground floor area with separate guest accommodation above, it finally felt as if we had a plan,' Clare says. 'Half of me, though, believed it would never happen.'

Having a plan and funding in place are often not enough, however, when it comes to restoring buildings of unique historic provenance. It took several more years, during which the couple made patient overtures to conservation officers and the local council, before work could begin.

'With Grade II-listed structures,' says Clare, 'there is a paradox that poses a problem. Conservation officers say you are not allowed to make the alterations that building regulations say you have to make.'

By the time the green light was given, the list of major repairs was huge, from the outside staging (the balcony from which the miller would have checked the sweeps, or sails) and rotting sash windows to »



Dining area
Once the meal floor, where the meal was processed into flour, this is reached from the oak staging outside via stable doors at either end of the room. Arts and Crafts **table and chairs,** similar from Laura Ashley.

What we love most about living here...
'The amazing 360-degree views across the rolling Kent countryside'

What makes this house a home...
'The exposed original features and materials, which give it a lived-in feeling'



Living room
Retro wooden armchairs add colour and pattern. The bookshelves, with an array of titles published by The Companion Book Club, began life as the rungs in a ladder staircase. Chair **fabric,** similar from Andrew Martin.

Bedroom Original oak timbers are complemented by new tongue and groove cladding, painted white to lift the space. (Below) An antique copper bowl makes a stylish basin. **Quilt,** similar from Overstock. **Basket,** The Basket Company.



blown brickwork and decrepit floorboards on the three upper floors. Replacement floorboards were sourced from other windmills in the North and the exterior was clad in weatherboard, which was continued on the inside. Elegant spiral oak staircases now curl between floors, while the original yet impractical smooth-worn ladder stairs were upcycled into bookshelves for the first-floor kitchen and living area. Replacement windows were meticulously made, using old photographic records of the windmill for reference, while the old flour chute was salvaged and cleverly used to hide necessary pipework and wiring.

The windmill refurbishment was completed in late spring 2013 and, even though its rooms now serve a very different purpose, the essential character of the mill has been carefully preserved through imaginative adaptations and the retention and exposure of original architectural features. The finishing touch, and very much the fun bit for Clare, is the complementary vintage décor which balances comfort with authenticity, and every mod con you could wish for. The unusual shape of the mill's rooms means much of the furniture is bespoke and made from reclaimed materials, where possible, for an authentic feel. The palette blends rustic neutrals and the materials used are natural, from wood and leather to wool and other real fibres. The overall feel of the restored mill is both welcoming and wonderfully nostalgic.

'The whole renovation has been an incredibly rewarding experience,' says Clare. 'Unsurprisingly, it's not over yet, as I'm determined to get a grant to have the sweeps, cap and fantail replaced. That's the thing about a project of this size and duration – we've come too far to stop before this grand old dame has been restored in her entirety.' »

ON OUR DOORSTEP...

Visit... 'Sissinghurst Castle in Cranbrook (01580 710700, nationaltrust.org.uk), the former home of Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicolson of Bloomsbury Group fame. They created the amazing gardens at Sissinghurst, which are among the most beautiful in England.'

Shop at... 'P Ward & Sons (01580 240612) in Benenden. This family butcher sees foodies from across southeast England queuing with the locals for homemade chipolatas, free-range chickens and beef reared a few fields away.'

Go for a meal at... 'The Curlew Inn (01580 861394, thecurlew restaurant.co.uk) in Bodiam, for Michelin-starred modern British cuisine in elegant surroundings with a relaxed feel.'

Bathroom The old 'dust floor' is now a luxurious space with roll-top bath and glassed-in wetroom (out of view) with underfloor heating. **Bath,** Bathstore.

FEATURE GREG COOK **PHOTOGRAPHS** RICHARD PARSONS

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Add accessories with rustic textures. Wire and wood **basket,** L39xW26cm, £16.50, The Orchard.



Reflect light with mirrors and metal. Ayla **mirror,** H147cm, £220, Out There Interiors. Copper **pot,** H10cm, £8.95, MiaFleur.



Modern Country Classic

Circular dining table

Eating at a round table is the most sociable way to enjoy meals, especially in smaller rooms.

Need to know...

A pedestal base is a good option for a round table, avoiding the need for anyone to straddle a table leg. Get the size right: generally, a 1.1m diameter table seats up to four diners; 1.3m seats six; 1.5m, eight and 1.7m, 10 people. Extension leaves can cater for extra diners. A solid-wood top finished in protective oil or wax can be sanded and rewaxed if damaged; lacquered surfaces are durable but harder to repair.

Where to buy...

- **Neptune** for an oak table with painted pedestal.
- **Oka** for a table that can seat 18.
- **Raft** for a table with a reclaimed teak block base.



Love country colours. Rowan **place mat,** £40 for 6, Sophie Conran. Aqua Maze **cup** and **saucer,** £8, Debenhams.

Be inspired by

Clare's dining area

FIND THE PERFECT

RECLAIMED WOOD FLOOR



1 Weaving Mill, £60 sq m; **2** Engineered Heritage oak, £220 sq m; **3** Antique Distressed Tudor oak, £170 sq m, all Bert & May.



Feel the heat in style. Cast-iron Grace 4 column 11 section **radiator,** col Metallic Grey Bronze, from £448.80, Castrads.

For more ideas go to housetohome.co.uk/ countryhomesandinteriors



Eat family meals at a round table. Bramley **dining table,** H78x120cm diameter, £1,000, Laura Ashley.

FEATURE CELIA CAMPBELL, CAROLINE RODRIGUES

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Your

AUTUMN DECORATING LOOKBOOK

Welcome to the ultimate new-season country style guide. We've sifted through the fabrics, oohed and aahed over the paint charts and filtered through the furniture to bring you the best trends for autumn 2015 »

Woodland LEAVES

A look that's now and forever! Linear, graphic foliage textile designs inspired by the tree canopy fall gently into our homes. Skeletal sketches and screen-print-like finishes in neutral tones create a modern country feel for those who like things pale and interesting. Make them into Roman blinds and simple cushions, and team with warm natural woods and pewter touches for that all-is-calm feel.



COUNTRY COLOUR PALETTE

• Subdued end-of-season browns • Mellow greys • Charcoal black

SEE PAGE 80 FOR DETAILS



HERO BUY

A polished bench

- Teak indoor-outdoor seating provides sturdy, family-friendly furniture for every season.
- Choose a leggy style for the extra storage space underneath. »

Style tip

Mix leaf patterns together effortlessly by using designs of different sizes from the same faded grey-brown palette

Soft-sheen METALLICS

This season, there's a hint of sparkle in the air for the country-house look. Aged zinc, bronze and brass with well-worn forged surfaces bring a polished yet warming feel to rooms. Hang wallpapers with subtle-shine classic designs, soften sofas with shimmery crushed velvets and accessorise with vintage-style gilt mirrors, hammered-metal vases and candle holders. Then sit back… and feel the glow.



COUNTRY COLOUR PALETTE

• Copper • Flame • Bronze • Pewter

SEE PAGE 80 FOR DETAILS



Style tip

Make metallics gleam all the brighter by introducing coarse or matt textures, such as natural fibres, wicker, tweed and wood

HERO BUY

A classic sofa

- Invest in a modern meets trad shape upholstered in the subtlest metallic weave.
- Button detailing and trims add a crisp tailored edge, while co-ordinating cushions are arranged to bring a touch more lustre. »

It's all about BLUE

At the turn of the season, this classic country colour gets cosy with deep rich hues high on our wishlists. Paint walls in dawn-to-dusk shades depending on the mood you want to achieve. When it comes to fabrics, linen and denim textures are popular and contrast well with tactile rustic leather accessories. To add wow factor, invest in polished indigo freestanding furniture, sure to be an heirloom. Small-pattern ceramic designs also make it easy to show your love for this feel-good part of the spectrum.



COUNTRY COLOUR PALETTE

• Indigo • Denim • Midnight • Putty-touched grey blues

SEE PAGE 80 FOR DETAILS



Style tip

Add biscuit-brown leather, wood and creamy linens to take the chill off cool blues

HERO BUY

A handsome painted dresser

• Striking dark blue cabinetry lends itself comfortably to both classic and modern country styles. Store and display treasured artefacts, accessories and beautiful pottery. »

All hail ARTISAN

The ‘handmade’ revolution continues apace, allowing us to decorate our homes in one-off ways. With a nod to both past craftsmanship and the skilled modern maker, this country look is all about celebrating the artistic process, the finest raw materials and original designs. Choose block-printed wallpapers and fabrics, unique ceramics and carved wood for a creative, artisanal edge.



COUNTRY COLOUR PALETTE

• Putty • Olive • Washed greys • Natural woods

SEE PAGE 80 FOR DETAILS



Style tip

Use a toning wallpaper with a small regular pattern to unify a collection of pieces with organic shapes and finishes

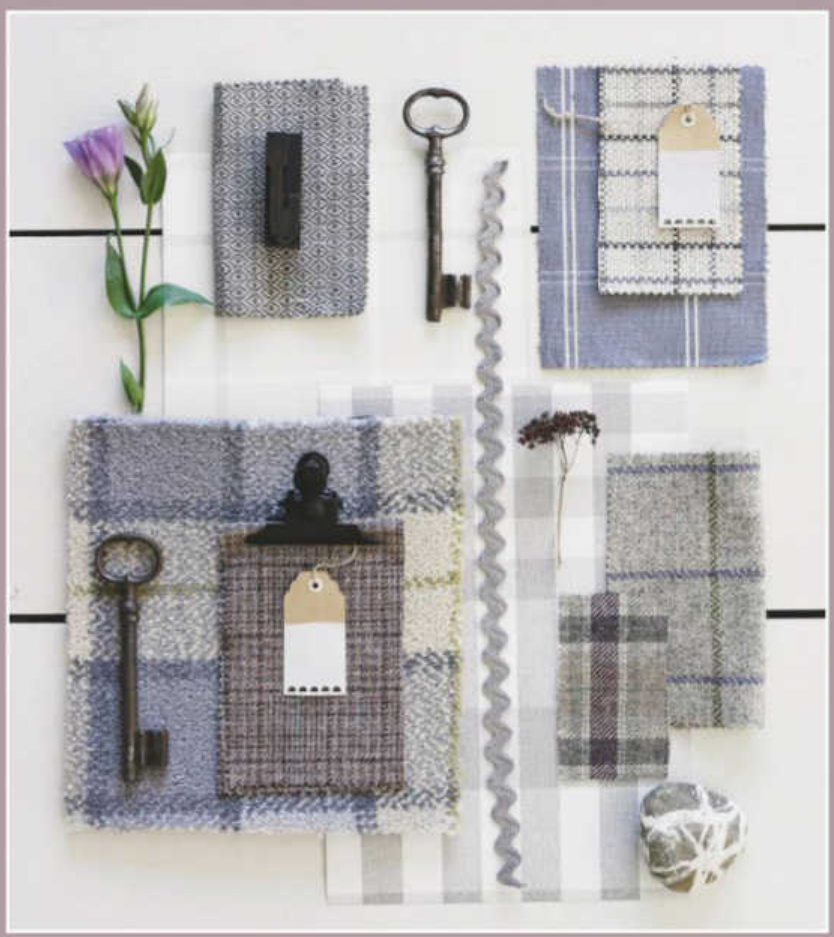
HERO BUY

Handmade ceramics

- Invest in pottery direct from makers and group the pieces together to highlight the craftsmanship.
- Select pots with dimples, thumb prints or brush marks that add individuality. »

Handsome WEAVES

A textural treat for comfort lovers, this warm-as-toast look draws together new-wave woven wools with wide-width tailored designs. Bring smart hotel-chic style to your home using suiting-style checks and tweeds on buttoned upholstery, subtle loomed-look wallpapers and plaid-patterned soft furnishings in muted heather shades. The look is relaxed, warm and oh-so modern heritage!



COUNTRY COLOUR PALETTE

• Moody mulberry • Damson • Sky blue • Gull greys

SEE PAGE 80 FOR DETAILS



HERO BUY

An upholstered headboard

- Bring a tailor-made touch to a bedroom with an elegant bespoke headboard.
- Button-back detailing draws the eye and could also introduce another colour to the finished item. »

Style tip

Keep the look calm by layering in blocks of single colours drawn from the checks and plaids

All the details: PRODUCTS AND PRICES

Pages 70-71



LEAVES

INSET (Clockwise from top left) Zinc medium landscape **frame,** £14.95, Nkuku. Tuva 557-29, **wallpaper,** £76 a roll, Sandberg. Handmade **tile,** £16.50, Ellul Ceramics at Madebyhandonline.com. Large landscape copper **frame,** £20, Cox & Cox. Wild Fern **wallpaper,** £44 a roll, Clarke & Clarke. Kew Baltic **fabric,** col Oatmeal, £39.50 m, Ian Mankin. Mini zinc **frame,** £16.95 for 4, Nkuku. Handmade **tile,** £16.50, Ellul Ceramics at Madebyhandonline.com. Zinc small portrait **frame,** £12.95, Nkuku. Woodland Walk **fabric,** col Stone, £45 m, Vanessa Arbuthnott. Felix **wallpaper,** £76 a roll, Sandberg. Mini **frame,** as before.
MAIN Wall, painted in Tom's Bakery, £35 for 2.5L, Earthborn. **Blind,** Asplin, col Squirrel, £47 m, Villa Nova. (On windowsill) **books,** from £5 each, Pimpernel & Partners. Retro **vase,** £25.50, Nordic House. **Votive,** £8.95 for 2, Design Vintage. **Bird,** £5.95, John Lewis. Antique **jar,** £150, Maison Artefact. Birch bark **tealight holder,** £9.95, Nordic House. Wire **bird,** £15, House of Fraser. Byron **bench,** £682, Rowen & Wren. **Cushions** (from left): **1** Woodland, col Charcoal, £21 m; **2** Cowslip, col Flax, £30 m; **3** Fougeres, col Taupe, £19 m, all Clarke & Clarke. **Throw,** £80, House of Fraser. **Mug,** £27, Luma. Antique **trug,** £15, Pimpernel & Partners. **Basket,** £35 for 2; black **lantern,** £50, both House of Fraser. Handmade wool **rug,** £165, Cox & Cox. Other items, stylist's own.

Pages 72-73



METALLICS

INSET Wallpaper (from left): **1** Renaissance Damask, 312026, £75 a roll, Zoffany. **2** Patina, EW15013/140, £75 a roll, GP&J Baker. **3** Soho, 210-31, £76 a roll, Sandberg. **4** Renaissance Damask, 312025, £75 a roll, Zoffany. **Thread,** £2, Pimpernel & Partners. **Tealight,** £9.95 for 3, Nordic House. Bargello **fabric,** £83 m; (under tealight) Fresco Secco **wallpaper,** £70 a roll, both Zoffany. Flamboyance **fabric,** col Oatmeal, £75 m, GP&J Baker. Lassi **cup,** £38, Opium. **Button tufts,** £8 each, Zoffany. Copper **bowl,** £35 for 3, House of Fraser. Flamboyance **fabric,** col Antique, £75 m, GP&J Baker. Katarina **wallpaper,** col Pale Gold, £90 a roll, Zoffany.
MAIN Wall, painted in French Grey Mid, £37 for 2.5L, Little Greene. **Mirror,** £70, Cox & Cox. Venice **sofa,** £949, Multiyork. **Cushions** (from left): **1** Copper Floral, £69, Multiyork. **2** Flamboyance, col Caramel, £75 m, GP&J Baker. **3** Marley, col Lemon, £50.50 m, Voyage Decoration. **4** Rusty Velvet, £65, Multiyork. **Table,** £90; **lamp,** similar from Cox & Cox. **Jug,** £21, Luma. Copper **bowl,** as before. **Vase,** £25, I&JL Brown. (On shelf) **Books,** £5 each, Pimpernel & Partners. **Candlestick,** £12.50; **tealights,** £9.95 for 3, all Nordic House. Lassi **cup,** as before. **Mirror,** £450, Maison Artefact. **Lantern,** £25, Nordic House. **Owl,** £25, House of Fraser. **Books,** £45 for 4, Maison Artefact. **Vase,** £50, House of Fraser. **Pot,** £25, David Mellor. **Rug,** £175, Laura Ashley. **Basket,** £45, Garden Trading. **Throw,** £29, John Lewis. **Cushion,** £45, Multiyork.

Pages 74-75



BLUE

INSET Slate **mat,** £22 for 2, John Lewis. **Brush,** £3; **vase,** £4, both Pimpernel & Partners. Stripe and Dash **fabric,** £46 m, Vanessa Arbuthnott. **Paint** (clockwise from top left): Button Tin, £35 for 2.5L, Earthborn. Bone China Blue, £37 for 2.5L, Little Greene. Polka Dot, £35 for 2.5L, Earthborn. Pitch Blue, £38 for 2.5L, Farrow & Ball. Deep Space Blue, £37 for 2.5L, Little Greene. Cook's Blue, £38 for 2.5L, Farrow & Ball.
MAIN Dresser, £1,910, Neptune. (From top) **Pot,** £17.50; **jug,** £14, both David Mellor. **Mug,** £165, Tobias and the Angel. **Bowls,** £8 each, Designers Guild. **Bottle,** £4.95, Dee Puddy. **Bowl,** from £19.95; **mug** (next shelf), £9.95, both Design Vintage. **Plate,** £10, Designers Guild. **Teapot,** £63, David Mellor. **Box,** £10, Pimpernel & Partners. **Jug,** £20, House of Fraser. **Plate,** £10, Designers Guild. **Cups,** £17.50 with saucer, David Mellor. **Platter,** £35, Murmur. **Cups,** £17.50 with saucer, David Mellor. **Bowl,** from £19.95, Design Vintage. **Jug,** £35, Luma. **Measure,** £10, Pimpernel & Partners. **Plate,** £8, House of Fraser. **Mugs,** £15.50, David Mellor. **Bottle,** £15.50, Luma. Table **linen,** from £7.50, The Linen Works. **Jug,** £50, David Mellor. **Journals,** from £24.95, Nkuku. **Plate,** £8, Designers Guild. **Bowl,** £95, Tobias and the Angel. **Ruler,** £7; **buttons,** £3, all Pimpernel & Partners. **Curtain,** Indigo Stripe, £34.50 m, Ian Mankin. **Pole,** £30, John Lewis. **Hook,** £5.99, Heal's. **Bag,** £160, Nkuku. **Stool,** £149, Nordic Home. **Apron,** £18, Murmur. **Basket,** £50, John Lewis. **Throw,** £65; **runner,** £110, both Luma.

Pages 76-77



ARTISAN

INSET Mug, from £20, Rebecca Callis Porcelain at Madebyhandonline.com. **Tile,** £10.50, Fired Earth. Vintage **spools,** £2.50 each, Dee Puddy. **Fabrics** (from left), Flora, col Mineral, £79 m; Cheriton, col Warm Grey, £129 m, both GP&J Baker. Antique **hand block,** £28, Opium. Green **jug,** £26, David Mellor. Cotton **reels,** £2 each; **paintbrushes,** £4 each, all Pimpernel & Partners. Life & Eternity **fabric,** cols Charcoal (in jug); Stone, £46 m, Vanessa Arbuthnott. Acton **wallpaper,** col Oatmeal, £49.50 a roll, Ian Mankin.
MAIN Nila **wallpaper,** col Stone Grey/Ivory, £70 a roll, Akin & Suri. Architects **chest,** £550, Garden Trading. Antique **butter mould** (just seen), £65, Tobias and the Angel. Sage **jug,** £45, David Mellor. Chapatti **board,** £34.95, Nkuku. White enamel **cutlery,** £44 for a place setting, Dee Puddy. White **bowl,** £18, Luma. Antique **bread knife,** £35, Tobias and the Angel. White **jug,** £32; small speckle **dishes,** £6 each, all Murmur. Lidded **jar,** £39, David Mellor. Sage **bowl,** £25, Rebecca Callis Porcelain at Madebyhandonline.com. Olivewood serving **platter,** £19.50; espresso **cup,** £10.50, both David Mellor. Other items, stylist's own.

Pages 78-79



WEAVES

INSET (Clockwise from top left) Corin **fabric,** col Cardamon, £60 m, Romo. Ranold **wallpaper,** col Beige, £79 a roll, Sandberg. Chatham **fabric,** col Steel, £35 m, Villa Nova. Rigby **fabric,** col Gris, £65 m, Romo. **Paint,** Eiderdown, £35 for 2.5L, Earthborn. Vincent **wallpaper,** £76 a roll, Sandberg. Arran **fabric,** col Amethyst; Arrochar **fabric,** col Heather, both £50.50 m, Voyage Decoration. Grey **trim,** £4.45 a reel, John Lewis. Belgravia **carpet,** £80 sq m, Brintons. Kelty **fabric,** col Heather, £50.50 m, Voyage Decoration. **Paint,** Borrowed Light, £38 for 2.5L, Farrow & Ball. Vintage **keys; stationery,** all from a selection, Dee Puddy.
MAIN Wall, painted in Pearl Colour, £37 for 2.5L, Little Greene. **Headboard,** from £290, The Dormy House. Covered in Kelty, col Heather, £50.50 m, Voyage Decoration. Buttons in Harris Tweed, col Sky, £68 m, Vanessa Arbuthnott. **Bed,** £545; **mattress,** £445; **runner,** £165, all Loaf. Joanie Butterfly **pillowcases,** £12 each; **duvet cover,** £90; grey **throw,** £29, all John Lewis. **Cushions** (from left): **1** Corin, £60 m, Romo. **2** Parquet, col Fig, £45 m, Harlequin. **3** Arrochar, £50.50 m, Voyage Decoration. **Throw,** Parquet Fig, £45 m, Harlequin. **Plate,** £7, Pimpernel & Partners. **Table,** £160; **lamp,** £60, both John Lewis. **Jug,** £6.50, Cox & Cox. **Mug,** £27, Luma. Straw **Bag,** £65, Nkuku. Rabanna cotton **fabric,** £96 m, Fermoie. Stripe **throw,** £65, Design Vintage.

FEATURE SARA BIRD **STYLING** ANNA MALHOMME DE LA ROCHE **PHOTOGRAPHS** DAVID BRITTAIN, (OPENER) TIMEINCUKCONTENT.COM

NEXT MONTH GO DARK AND HANDSOME

SEE PAGE 163 FOR PHONE NUMBERS AND WEBSITES


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Art Book www.clarke-clarke.com

HALLWAY *heaven*

TURN AN ENTRANCE AREA INTO A PRACTICAL AND STYLISH ZONE WITH THE LATEST COUNTRY-STYLE BUYS

Look after boots and shoes



Keep wellies and everyday shoes in baskets or on racks. A storage bench with a wide wicker drawer provides lots of space plus somewhere to sit and pull boots on and off.

Henley storage **bench,** H79xW100xD35cm, £288; Bessie **cushion,** £46, both Rowen & Wren. Goat hair shine **brush,** £13.50, The ShoeCare Shop. **Shoe horn,** £32, The Great English Outdoors. Chevron **throw,** 192x149cm, col Brown, £115, Folklore. Le Chameau Vierzonord rubber **boots,** col Chocolate Brown, £164.95; half-length **wellington boots,** col Green, £12.99, both Birstall. **Welly rack,** £95, Baileys. Lace-up rain **boots,** £110, Plümo. **Shoe scraper and brush,** £35, The Cotswold Company. Chunky jute **runner,** £85, Rockett St George. Shaker **peg rail,** similar from Jali. Koko leather **shopper,** £195, Nkuku. Florence **basket,** £22, Cabbages & Roses.



1 Treat yourself to a pair of soft suede shoes, Maisie brogues, col Navy, £259, Toast.
2 Shine shoes with a soft cotton cloth, applicator cloth, £3.85, The ShoeCare Shop.
3 Keep leather supple, Dubbin Graisse, £9.75 for 100ml, The ShoeCare Shop.
4 Perk up your shoes with polish, Saphir shoe polish, £5 for 50ml, The ShoeCare Shop.
5 Use cream polish on delicate leathers, Nappa Cream, £12.50 for 50ml, The ShoeCare Shop.
6 Attach a smart sign to your boot room area, slate Boot Room plaque, £4.50, Garden Trading.
7 Pull on cosy long socks, cable over-the-knee socks, £30, Celtic & Co.
8 Invest in horsehair brushes, applicator brushes, £12.75 each, The ShoeCare Shop.
9 Lather up your pooch with soap containing olive oil for a shiny coat and lemongrass and rosemary oils to repel fleas, Natural Dog Wash, £12 for 100g, The Great English Outdoors.
10 Buff up footwear with soft bristles, large horsehair shine brush, £8.40, The ShoeCare Shop.
11 Lace up soft leather flats for comfort and style, Mai lace-up boots, col Tan, £249, Toast.
12 Wrap a pretty scarf around your neck, Camilla scarf, col Sage, £16.99, AnJo Home.
13 Organise shoe-cleaning paraphernalia in a handy enamelled box with compartments, shoeshine tray with compartments (from a shoeshine box), £28, Garden Trading.
14 Restore leather shoes and bags with a colourless renovating cream, Leather Renovateur, £11.25 for 75ml, The ShoeCare Shop.
15 Clean small marks and dirt from suede with a specially designed brush, small silk-bristled wooden brush (from a set including cleaner, **19**), £12.50, The ShoeCare Shop.
16 Have a long shoe horn on hand for slipping on tight shoes and boots more easily, handmade Abbeyhorn shoe horn, 25cm, £42.50, The ShoeCare Shop.
17 Shape and protect leather with aromatic cedar shoe trees, cedar shoe trees, £25, The ShoeCare Shop.
18 Thread shoes with new laces, waxed light brown shoe laces, £3, The ShoeCare Shop.
19 Refresh suede, nubuck or crepe shoe shades with a specialist cleaner, Saphir Omninettoyant Cleaner (from a set including brush, **15**), £12.50, The ShoeCare Shop.
20 Give polished shoes a final shine with a soft cloth, cotton polishing cloth, £5, The ShoeCare Shop.
21 Choose a textured runner for comfort underfoot, Chunky jute runner, 70x200cm, £85, Rockett St George. »

Hang things up to dry



Invest in handsome hallway furniture to keep outdoor gear together. A tall unit provides neat hooks to hang jackets, hats and umbrellas with an integral lidded box at the base for jumpers, throws and scarves. Offer extra hanging space with a Shaker peg rail on the wall.

Montague oak **hall unit,** £475, The Cotswold Company. **Hurricane lamp,** £79, Pedlars. Cath Kidston walking **umbrella,** £30, The Umbrella Shop. Tinder pouch **bag,** £62; Henley **top,** £38; straw **Trilby,** £25; waxed cotton **jacket,** £160, all Celtic & Co. Shaker **peg rail,** similar from Jali. Tempest **raincoat,** £129, Plümo. Rattan **umbrella basket,** £40, Cox & Cox. Fulton City Stripe Knightsbridge **umbrella,** £24.95; Olive Green walking **umbrella,** £15.95, both The Umbrella Shop. Maisie suede **brogues,** £259, Toast. Black Oxford **shoes,** £185, Cabbages & Roses. Patchwork lace-up **boots,** £175, Celtic & Co. Fenella Smith The Cecil **dog bed,** covered in Pug, £270, Sofa.com. Chunky jute **runner,** £85, Rockett St George.



1 Add an industrial element with galvanised steel, Antique galvanised hook rail, W57cm, £25, The Cotswold Company.
2 Encourage everyone to wipe their feet, plain door mat, 40x60cm, £5, John Lewis.
3 Slip a carved acorn wedge under your door to prop it open, natural oak Acorn door wedge, £9, Period Features.
4 Prevent the door slamming with an oak door stop, oak Pear door stop, £42, Period Features.
5 Make an entrance with stripes, Jute Stripe Loop door mat, 45x75cm, £24, John Lewis.
6 Pick metal coat hooks in mellow autumnal tones, Brana wall hooks in Brass and Blackened Bronze finish, £18 each, Rowen & Wren.
7 Give your coat the brush off, clothes brushes (from a set with printed bag), £7.50, Garden Trading.
8 Protect against moths by using cedar coat hangers, cedar coat hanger, £9.95 for 3, Muji.
9 Place cedar wood blocks in coat pockets to repel insects and moths, cedar wood blocks, £3.95 for 20, Muji.
10 Give your home a chic French look with a smart new house number, blue and white powder-coated steel house numbers, made to order, from £26 each, Period Features.
11 Keep an eye on the weather so you know which coat to wear, large thermometer, £46, Labour and Wait.
12 Introduce nautical texture with a knot doorstop, rope door stop, £68, Labour and Wait.
13 Pick a practical floor covering that won't show the dirt, Chunky jute runner, 70x200cm, £85, Rockett St George. »

Find a place for bits and bobs



Keep all those grab-at-the-last-minute essentials in one place so you don't leave the house without them. A neat pigeonhole unit is ideal for family life – especially when wall-hung and out of the way – with room for change pots, car keys, bus passes and combs.

Chedworth **wall unit with hooks,** £100, Garden Trading. From top, A6 **journal,** £14.95; A5 suede **journal,** £24.95; A5 Rustic leather **journal,** £24.95, all Nkuku. Galvanised Gubbins **tins** (from a set of nine tins with tray), £19.95, Sophie Conran. Donegal **beanie hat,** £25, Celtic & Co. **Notebooks,** all from a selection, Muji. **Scarf,** from a selection, Celtic & Co. **Scarf** (just seen), £19.95, Nkuku. Cashmere **gloves,** £38, Celtic & Co. **Tin,** as before. Horn dress **comb,** £12.75, The Great English Outdoors. Horn pocket **comb,** £12, Labour and Wait. **Hairbrush,** £7.95, Muji. Horn wallet **combs,** £8.75 each, The Great English Outdoors. Bi-fold **wallet,** £30, Sail Handmade. **Wallet,** £125; string **bag,** £6.50, both Labour and Wait. Book **bag** (inside string bag), £22, The Linen Works. Horn whistle **key ring,** £12, The Great English Outdoors. The Gate Keeper **key ring,** £18, Sail Handmade. Silent dog **whistle,** £22; rope **key ring,** £12, both Labour and Wait. **Chair,** £200 for 2, Cox & Cox. Elham **cushion,** £46, Rowen & Wren. Other items, stylist's own.

SEE PAGE 163 FOR PHONE NUMBERS AND WEBSITES



1 Mount family outing mementos and photographs in a smart leather album, dark brown Kubu leather photo album, £36.95, Nkuku.
2 Remember the date with a compact calendar, Ball calender, £75, Present & Correct.
3 Walk your dog on a neat rope lead, rope dog lead, £16, Labour and Wait.
4 Keep loose change in a leather purse, tan leather envelope purse, £47, Sail Handmade.
5 Organise odds and ends in a tray of tins, Gubbins tins with tray, £19.95, Sophie Conran.
6 Have a comb handy for quick tidy-ups, horn dress comb, £12.75, The Great English Outdoors. Horn pocket comb, £12, Labour and Wait.
7 Organise post or receipts with brass clips, handle clip, £6; large brass Crocodile Clip, £5.50, both Present & Correct.
8 Keep fingers snug with cosy cashmere, gloves, col Driftwood, £38, Celtic & Co.
9 File post and postcards in a deep wire basket, zinc wire letterbox basket, £14, House Junkie.
10 Peg important invites where they won't be missed, small crocodile clip, £4.50, Present & Correct.
11 Chalk reminders on a slate board, Don't Forget Board, H35xW25cm, £15, Garden Trading.
12 Choose a stylish key ring to attach to your handbag or belt, deluxe brown leather key ring, £18, Sail Handmade.
13 Put a small torch where you can find it in a power cut, mini flashlight, £22, Labour and Wait.
14 Have a handful of loose change at the ready in a small leather purse, single press-stud coin purse, £28, Sail Handmade.
15 Jot down notes and shopping lists in simple notebooks, double ring A6 notebooks, cols Natural, Grey, £1.25 each, Muji.
16 Pop stray coins in a glass money box, zinc and glass black board box, £22, House Junkie.
17 Tame unruly locks before the school bus arrives with a natural wood brush, small hairbrush, £7.95, Muji.
18 Choose natural-fibre materials for a rustic feel underfoot, Chunky jute runner, £85, Rockett St George.

FEATURE SARA BIRD **STYLING** SALLY CONRAN **STYLING ASSISTANT** ROSY JOHNSON **PHOTOGRAPHS** DAN DUCHARS


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SPLASHBACK STYLE

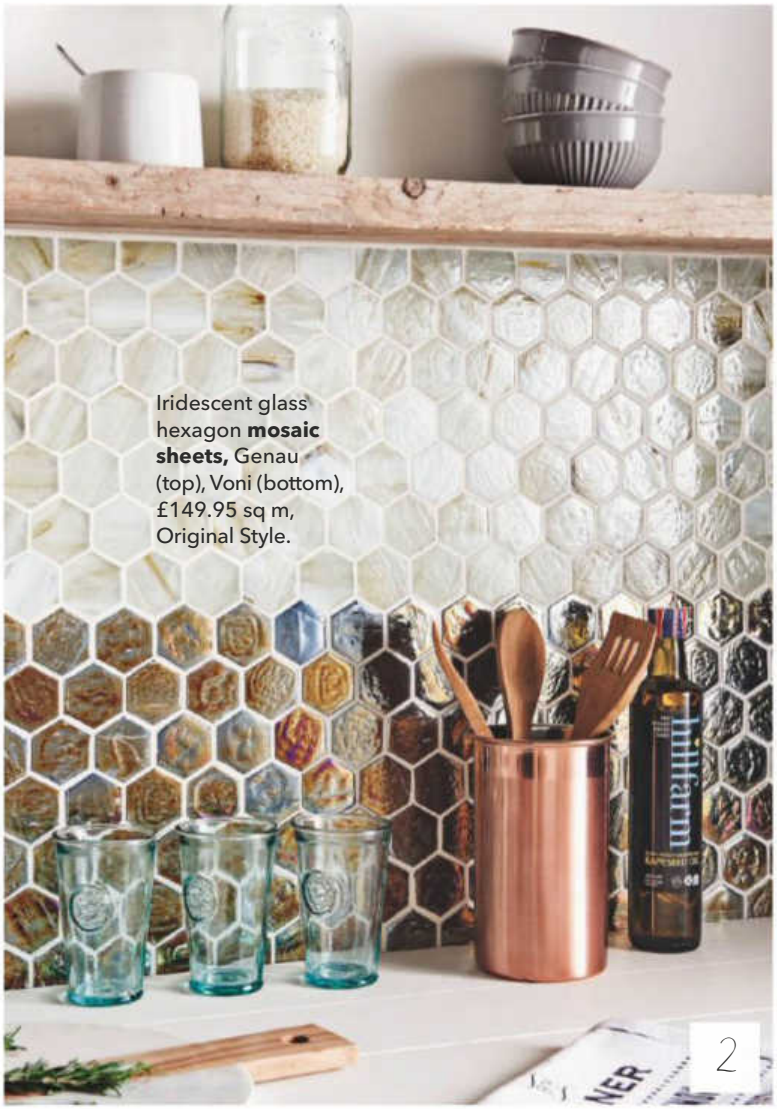
COMBINE PRACTICALITY AND DESIGNER FLAIR WITH A SPLASHBACK IN MARBLE, GRANITE, GLASS OR DECORATIVE TILE AND GIVE EVEN THE SIMPLEST OF COUNTRY KITCHENS AN EXTRA DASH OF INTEREST



Choose a scenic map as a nod to the locality of your country home.

1 MAKE IT PERSONAL
Take advantage of vertical space above appliances using creative ideas, such as a feature print or local map framed behind a sheet of Perspex. Go for an image in similar shades to the room for a subtle, cohesive feel. »


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Iridescent glass hexagon **mosaic sheets,** Genau (top), Voni (bottom), £149.95 sq m, Original Style.

2



3

2 ALTERNATIVE SHAPES

Sheets of tiny mosaic tiles are particularly suitable for narrow spaces such as between a worktop and low shelving. Scott Robson, designer at Original Style suggests trying shapes other than traditional squares. 'Recent trends have seen brickbond shell, hexagon and circle mosaics come to the fore. And in gold and copper these add warmth and cosiness to a country kitchen.'

3 BRICK FASHION

Metro-style brick tiles are a great option for pared-down utilitarian kitchens and available in a palette of soft neutrals that work perfectly with other popular industrial-style materials, such as metals and dark paint finishes. Team brick with natural wood to add a modern rustic feel to a classic Shaker kitchen.

4 MOROCCAN STYLE

Patterned tiles are ideal for making a design feature out of a splashback in an otherwise redundant space such as inside a chimney breast. Tim Tatlock, Head of Buying, at Topps Tiles says, 'Tiles are versatile and hardwearing. Choose an intricate geometric design to create a stylish statement that is also practical.' »



4

Beatrice Green Field **tiles,** 15cm sq, £4.49 each, Minton Hollins at Topps Tiles.



Palladio Grey Mix **tiles,** 20cm sq (sold in sets of 9), £119.70 sq m, Mandarin Stone.

5



6



Nantucket Marble **tiles,** £89.81 sq m, Fired Earth.

7

NEXT MONTH EXPOSED BRICKWORK

5 MIX IT UP

Embrace the latest trend for combining patterns to create a unique patchwork style of decorative designs. Louisa Morgan, Marketing Director of Mandarin Stone, says, 'A combination of exquisite vintage designs offers subtle impact, while a simple colour palette of greys and whites creates a fresh and contemporary feel.'

6 SEAMLESS GRANITE

To create a sleek feel in a small kitchen consider a splashback that is a continuation of the worktop. Granite is a practical surface option and its subtle shades of colour – from darkest black to soft grey-blue – complement the tones of natural wood. Echoing details such as the curves in the end cupboards is an eye-pleasing touch.

7 MODERN MARBLE

Marble is a key kitchen trend right now and its natural monochrome shades of black, white and grey are ideal for adding a modern twist to a country home. Caroline Gow, Senior Category Manager at Fired Earth, says, 'The linear patterns of colour in vein-cut marble have a timeless natural beauty while providing a contemporary touch to a traditional kitchen.'

FEATURE SARA EMSLIE **PHOTOGRAPHS** (PICTURES 1, 3, 6) TIMEINCUKCONTENT.COM

SEE PAGE 163 FOR PHONE NUMBERS AND WEBSITES

Come to our design talk

Using British wool in the modern country home

LEARN HOW TO DECORATE WITH COLOUR, PATTERN AND TEXTURE USING THIS BEAUTIFUL NATURAL MATERIAL



Country Homes & Interiors and British Wool invite you to an inspiring and relaxed panel discussion, **Using wool in the modern country home: colour, pattern and texture,** at Heal's headquarters, London, on 8 October.

Join Rhoda Parry, Editor of Country Homes & Interiors, and Bridgette Kelly, Consultant Interior Textiles Director for the Campaign for Wool, plus three industry experts, in what promises to be a fun and interesting talk on how to create the ultimate cosy autumn home.

EVENT DETAILS

When Thursday 8 October 2015, 6-8.15pm
- 6pm Welcome drinks
- 6.30pm Talk begins

Where Heal's, 196 Tottenham Court Road, London W1T 7LQ
Cost £12.50
Book at heals.com/events
Tickets are limited – advance booking is essential.

MEET THE PANEL



Rhoda Parry
Editor, Country Homes & Interiors
Rhoda epitomises the new country generation who love seasonality, style and a little bit of soul.



Bridgette Kelly
Consultant Interior Textiles Director, Campaign for Wool
Bridgette works to promote real wool in interiors.



Amanda Griffiths
Chief Executive Officer, Melin Tregwynt
Amanda and husband Eifion's global brand is known for its inventive designs.



Margo Selby
Founder & owner, Margo Selby
Margo is a pioneer of woven textiles. Her trademark patterns are made in specialist mills for custom woven fabrics.



Siofra Murphy
Furniture Design Consultant, Heal's
Siofra describes her style as minimal but loves to use rich textures in her interiors.

ABOUT BRITISH WOOL
British Wool sells and promotes wool from British breeds on behalf of our national sheep farmers, and works closely with the global textile industry.

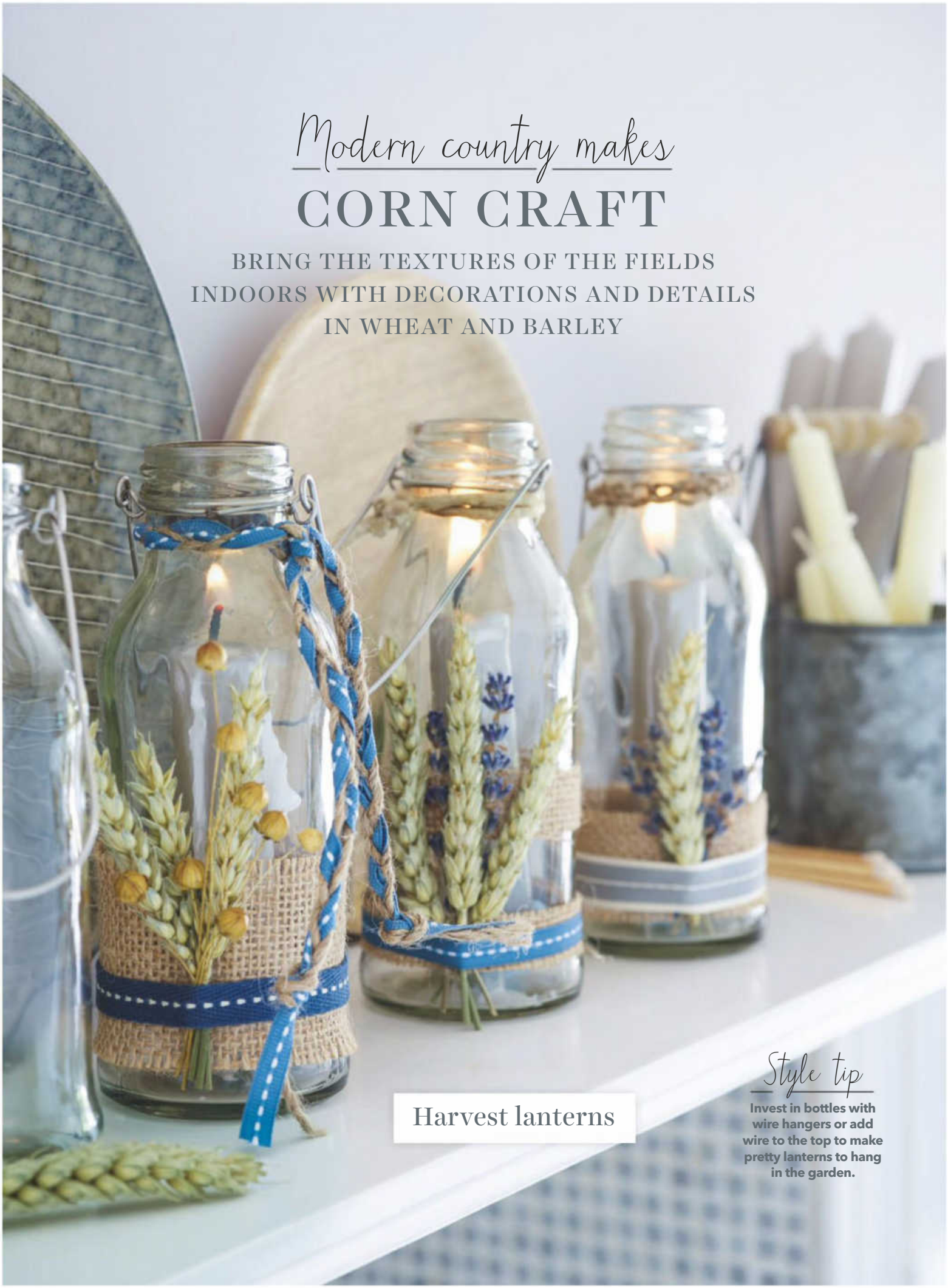
HEAL'S

PHOTOGRAPH TIMEINCUKCONTENT.COM

Modern country makes

CORN CRAFT

BRING THE TEXTURES OF THE FIELDS INDOORS WITH DECORATIONS AND DETAILS IN WHEAT AND BARLEY



Harvest lanterns

Style tip

Invest in bottles with wire hangers or add wire to the top to make pretty lanterns to hang in the garden.

Starburst wreath



Style tip

Weave ribbon or raffia through your wreath or dot flowers around the inner circle to add a decorative touch. »

Hand-tied table centrepiece



Style tip

Adding barley brings a fluffier texture to the arrangement, but it works just as well if you use only stalks of corn.



Style tip

Choose coloured card or handmade paper for an alternative look. »

Rustic name cards

VIDEO
Watch our 'Modern country makes' videos at **country-days.co.uk**

How to MAKE THEM YOURSELF

Harvest lanterns

A row of glass bottles or jars decorated with bunches of wheat and dried flowers creates a pretty display. To make, measure and cut a strip of hessian ribbon to go around the middle of the bottle, fixing in place with a blob of clear craft glue. Gather a small bunch of wheat and dried flowers and tie together using invisible thread. Glue the bunch to the hessian with a little more glue. Cut a length of ribbon to fit around the bottle and glue in place to hide the glue on the flowers, then allow to dry. Tie some plaited ribbon or twine around the neck of the bottle for added decoration, before placing a candle inside, preferably fixed on a small candle spike.*



Bottles; hessian, from a selection, D Byford & Sons. Invisible **thread,** £1 for 200m, Hobbycraft. **Ribbon,** from a selection, Jane Means. **Wheat** and dried **flowers,** gather locally or try Norpar Barns. Zinc **pot,** £7.99 for 2, AnJo Home. Artisan **plate,** £12.95, Nkuku. Broste **plate,** £14.95, Rigby & Mac.

Starburst wreath

Begin by gathering and cutting wheat ears – three different sizes will be required. To make a hanging loop, wind garden wire around the top of a dry oasis base and bend into shape. Starting at the top of the wreath, take the larger stalks and push them into the oasis around the side edge. Stick the medium wheat ears to the front of the oasis with a blob of glue from a hot glue gun. Glue ribbon to the inside edge of the wreath to cover any exposed oasis and add a top circle of smaller wheat ears – glue diagonally to create a different visual effect. Finish by tying a decorative ribbon bow and attaching using another blob of glue.



Oasis design **ring,** from a selection, D Byford & Sons. **Wheat** and dried **lavender,** gather locally or try Norpar Barns. **Ribbon,** from a selection, Jane Means. **Wire,** available from all good garden centres.

Hand-tied table centrepiece

Let humble corn and wheat take centre stage with a hand-tied bouquet. To create the display, first make up around 30 mini bundles using a mix of barley, wheat and dried lavender tied together with invisible thread. Hold the first bundle in one hand and add a second one at a diagonal. Turn around to the side, then add another bundle; keep turning and adding until there are about 10 bundles, then secure with garden twine. Continue the process, stopping to secure when the posy feels loose. When finished, cover the garden twine with decorative ribbon. Snip the stalks so they measure the same as the decorative tips, then neaten the ends to create a flat bottom so the posy will stand upright.



Barley, wheat and dried **lavender,** gather locally or try Norpar Barns. Invisible **thread,** £1 for 200m, Hobbycraft. **Ribbon,** from a selection, Jane Means. GreenGate **tablecloth,** £46.50, Houseology. Parisian Blue Dot **napkins,** £13.50 each, The Linen Works. Zinc **tray table,** £90, Cox & Cox.

Rustic name cards

Add a country touch to a casual lunch with simple name cards decorated with wheat ears. To make, cut the wheat ear leaving a couple of centimetres of stem. Wrap a little piece of ribbon around the base, glue in place and allow to dry. Cut out card and write the guest's name near the bottom edge – for a neat finish, type and print out the name cards or use a stencil or stamp. Fold the cards in half – scoring with a craft knife halfway up along the reverse of the card makes this neater. Measure and cut hessian ribbon sized to fit the front of the card. Fix to the card with a small blob of glue, add the wheat ear and allow to dry. Repeat with the other name cards.



Card, from a selection, Paperchase. **Hessian,** from a selection, D Byford & Sons. Pomax **cutlery,** £76 for 24 pieces, Houseology. **Napkins,** £13.50 each; **runner,** £40, The Linen Works. Broste **plates,** £14.95 each, Rigby & Mac. **Vases,** £27 for 3, Cox & Cox.

FEATURE SARA BIRD **STYLING ASSISTANT** ROSY JOHNSON **PHOTOGRAPHS** DAN DUCHARS
*NEVER LEAVE BURNING CANDLES UNATTENDED

SEE PAGE 163 FOR PHONE NUMBERS AND WEBSITES

NEXT MONTH AUTUMN LEAVES AND BERRIES



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‘I LOVE THE ABUNDANCE OF THE COUNTRYSIDE – HOW IT GIVES AND CHANGES’

Printmaker and artist Flora Arbuthnott

After studying product design at Glasgow School of Art, Flora Arbuthnott co-founded Botanical Inks (with designer Babs Behan), a project that runs creative workshops teaching printmaking and natural dyeing for those interested in eco textile design. Art and nature are her main inspirations in life, and she loves showing students how to harness the wild plants that grow locally to create natural dyes for textiles. With a keen interest in social and environmental sustainability, Flora is a designer who feels very connected to the natural world and loves to grow her own food. We went to Gloucestershire to find out more about her life in the country…

TELL US ABOUT WHERE YOU LIVE… I live with my family in a converted Victorian cow byre near Cirencester. It sits in four acres of woodland and gardens full of fruit, vegetables, herbs and plants. This is a creative place for family and artists to gather and collaborate, with studios, teaching spaces, cosy fires and lots of friendly faces. We also run creative workshops, which help people to engage their creative side in arts and nature. I have lived here on and off since I was four years old with my siblings George, Rose and Ned. Currently, I share this space with my parents (Flora’s mother is textile designer Vanessa Arbuthnott), a group of artists who have studios in the barn, 16 chickens, a cat called Pickle and Ruby the whippet.

IS IT YOUR DREAM HOME? This is a hugely inspiring place to live. It is totally sustainable with solar panels, a wood pellet boiler, compost loo, vegetable gardens and orchard which reduce our environmental impact. Ultimately, I’d like to create a more simple home with a forest garden and, of course, a dye garden as well.

TALK US THROUGH THE PLANT-TO-PRINT PROCESS THAT INSPIRES BOTANICAL INKS… We go out on foraging walks and gather wild plants including leaves, roots, bark and flowers to use in creative textile design. We teach how to harvest responsibly, and help give people an understanding of seasonal colour sources. We use traditional low-impact crafts such as block print, screen print and tie-dye, and locally sourced fibres that have been organically grown, biologically washed and manufactured in England. Our stoves are powered by renewable energy and we don’t use any chemicals. A typical »













Sage, woad (far left), walnut, dock, avocado, onion (centre) and calendula are among the materials used to create Flora's natural dyes.









Flora works on a new design in her studio.





A selection of silks, coloured using natural dyes including red cabbage, onions and eucalyptus.



Autumn is an inspirational time for Flora and she is never far from her sketchbook.



I couldn't live without...

'A WARM COAT, A ROARING FIRE, MY FAVOURITE BAR OF CHOCOLATE AND THE BOX SET OF *GAME OF THRONES*...'







Fabrics may be block-printed, screen-printed or tie-dyed.

SEE PAGE 163 FOR PHONE NUMBERS AND WEBSITES





FEATURE SARAH WILSON PHOTOGRAPHS POLLY ELTES

workshop might include creating your own naturally dyed scarf from a length of British organic silk.

WHAT ARE YOUR MEMORIES OF GROWING UP IN THE COUNTRYSIDE? I never really appreciated my life here until I moved to Glasgow to go to art school. I loved the creative community I was part of in the city, however, I struggled with the built-up environment and missed that connection with trees, wild flowers, birds and the seasons. I grew up making mud pies and playing with goats. Now that I'm older, I'm seeking out that connection again.

WHAT INSPIRES YOU MOST ABOUT LIVING IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE? I enjoy foraging for food and dye plants in the hedgerows. As we move through the seasons, different plants shoot up and are available to harvest. It is this close connection to the seasons, and the succession of time that grounds me.

WHAT'S GROWING IN YOUR KITCHEN GARDEN RIGHT NOW? Autumn is a bounteous time for mushrooms, fruits, nuts and berries. I like to make a wild hedgerow syrup from rosehips, blackberries and sloes. I also collect blackberries to make a dye that is initially purple, and then fades to a soft grey that's ideal for printmaking.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVOURITE LOCAL SHOPS? The Organic Farm Shop at Abbey Home Farm near Cirencester is a remarkable place, selling home-raised beef and lamb, and fresh seasonal vegetables. It also offers woodland wedding ceremonies, and you can stay in a shepherd's hut or yurt there.

IT'S SUNDAY LUNCHTIME – WHERE DO YOU HEAD FOR? It's not exactly traditional, but I love going to the Thai Emerald in Cirencester for a green curry.

YOU RECENTLY DESIGNED A RANGE FOR VANESSA ARBUTHNOTT – TELL US ABOUT IT... The Birds and Beasts collection has just launched, and really encapsulates my mother's country style. I contributed Bird Hop, a gorgeously plump little bird design. I love to draw and make paper cut-outs of imaginary birds and animals. Bird Hop was originally a stencil used in a demonstration for a screen-printing class I was teaching. Using a scalpel, I cut straight into the paper without a pencil drawing first, to create really crisp lines. I love to come up with stylised forms of familiar animals.

WHAT ARE THE HOT ISSUES LOCALLY? I've recently been stopped from walking in my favourite valley as the landlord closed it off to the public. So I'm a big supporter of ramblers' rights at the moment.

HOW DOES YOUR PERFECT WEEKEND SHAPE UP? I love nothing more than taking off to Wales for a hike in the wilds. On the way, I stop off in Abergavenny to stock up on supplies of dark chocolate and cider before walking out into the hills with a tent on my back. My idea of heaven is simply bedding down for the night tucked out of sight on the hillside with just the sound of an owl hooting and rain pattering on the tent. I breathe in the fresh air and views before seeking out a remote pub for a cosy game of cards by the fire. Then it's back home for a hot bath and a takeaway.

☎ For more information about Flora's work and details of the Botanical Inks workshops, visit floraarbuthnott.com or botanicalinks.com.

FLORA'S COUNTRY VIBE

Favourite things about October... Falling leaves and orchard fruit picking.

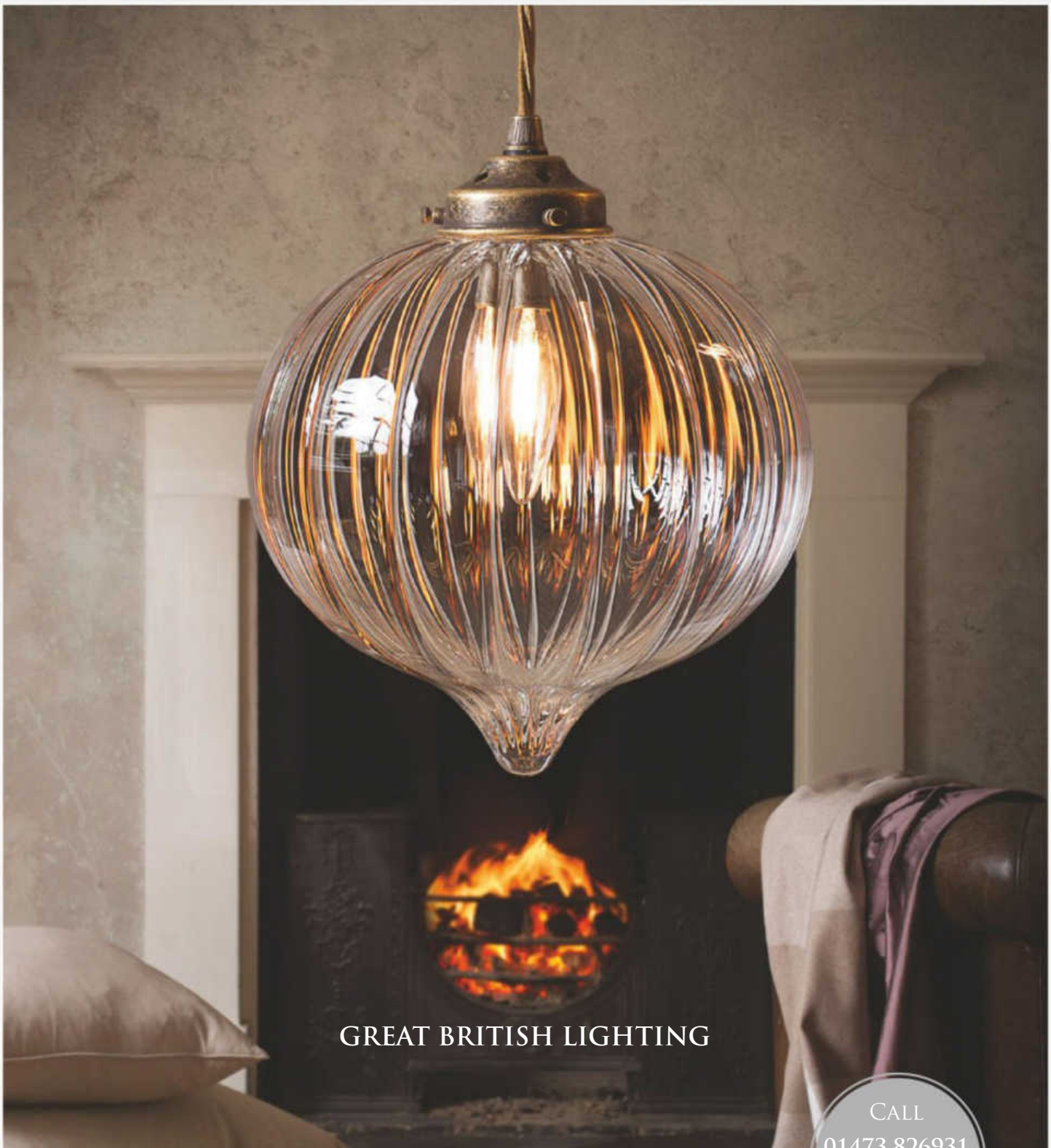
Comfort food – what's your favourite dish? Nut roast with mushrooms.

What are you doing right now? Looking at the stars.

What autumn festivals do you usually celebrate? Guy Fawkes Night – I love bonfires.

When the clocks go back, you will be... Asleep!

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Page 106
Work in comfort from a home office

Page 112
Add colour and warmth with patterned carpets

Page 117
Cosy up to the latest woodburners »

The new place to work at home

WHETHER THE SPACE IS DEDICATED TO DOMESTIC ADMIN, HOBBIES OR YOUR JOB, SETTING UP A COMFORTABLE, PRACTICAL WORKING AREA IS ONE OF THE BEST INVESTMENTS YOU CAN MAKE, WHATEVER THE SIZE OF YOUR HOME



1 Upcycled furniture

Painted in on-trend grey, a simple desk with an armchair in rich gold velvet looks elegant in the corner of a living room. Source a vintage desk from a junk shop or car-boot fair – nicks and coffee-cup rings won't matter – then give it a coat of furniture paint. Annie Sloan's decorative Chalk Paint comes in lovely country colours, and she also stocks a clear wax to protect the finish. Or source an upcycled, ready-painted desk from a specialist company such as Ruby Rhino.

Desk, similar new design, unpainted, Empire, from £287, Scumble Goosie. Jethou **armchair** covered in Sunshine velvet, £610, Sofa.com. M806 Sisool Tric **rug,** £100 sq m, bound with double border of Cotton Herringbone, £23.50 m, Crucial Trading.



Harpsden **fitted furniture,** col Light Praline, from £2,500, Hammonds.

2 Under the stairs

'With careful planning, the angular space under a staircase can become a tidy, flexible home-office area,' says Julia Kendell, Interior Designer and Brand Ambassador for Hammonds. Ensure adequate head room above the chair, and maximise storage by fitting full-height cupboards in the taller space. Good lighting from angled spots, or wall lights makes all the difference.



Hartford corner **desk,** H72xW140xD95cm, £350; Harper **dining chair,** £199 for 2, both Next.

3 Creative corner

Instead of trying to hide a desk in a corner, make it an important feature of the space. In contrast to the smooth grey-painted panelling here, a solid pine desk with distressed finish is ideal for creating a rustic effect. As well as deep drawers, open shelves beneath the desk top mean books and files are within easy reach and not an inch of corner space is wasted.

4 Hobby space

When planning furniture for a sewing room or similar craft area, think outside the box, as a desk is only one solution. 'It is really important to take a step back, feel the space and its size and think practically about what you need in the room,' says Josephine Bennett, Head of Design, Home, Laura Ashley. 'Decide how you want to use the piece – a console table that doubles up as a desk could be just right for you.' »



Aylesbury console **table,** H85xW110xD35cm, £550; Elgin dining **chair,** £200 for 2, painted in Duck Egg, £12.32 for 1L; Abbeville Camomile **wallpaper,** £34 a roll, all Laura Ashley.

Tip When the days get shorter, invest in a desk lamp with a flexible head and arm to focus light just where you need it without glare.



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5 Prime position

Extend your workspace by placing a desk in front of built-in shelving for both extra storage and clear surface space. Sitting comfortably is also a must. 'A good chair should be supportive of your body, allowing for easy movement,' says Janet Hinton, Assistant Buyer, Home Office, John Lewis. 'The longer you're using the chair daily, the more features you should consider, such as lumbar support, seat height and tilt adjustments. If more than one person will be using the chair, look for one that has dynamic adjustment and integrated lumbar support.'



Croft office **desk,** H75xW115 xD65cm, £499; **chair,** £350; **lamp,** £95, all John Lewis.

Country best STORAGE IDEAS



FILING CABINET
Pine with a blue paint finish looks more rustic than a metal unit.
• Dylan filing cabinet, £695, Lilly Loray.



PIGEONHOLES
Wall-mounted or freestanding, a solid wood unit keeps items tidy but accessible.
• Storage cubby unit, £125, Within.



OTTOMAN
Underneath this cushioned seat are hanging files and a useful pinboard.
• Filing ottoman, from £185 plus 2m fabric, The Dormy House. »



Balthazar ladder **desk,** H187x W86xD48cm, £650; Industrial **stool,** £95, both Graham and Green.

6 Career ladder

Leaning lightly against the wall and secured by fixings through a pigeonhole section, a mango wood ladder-style desk saves space and looks great. 'It instantly creates an unfussy home office,' says Jamie Graham, Creative Director, Graham and Green. 'The simple styling and natural materials are ideal for creating a casual country look that's both functional and beautiful.'



Manhattan writing **desk,** H78xW150x D80cm, £975; **dining chair,** from £195; **workstation,** from £1,550, all Neptune.

7 Glass top

'Your home-working environment should offer the same level of elegance, comfort and practicality as the rest of the house,' says John Sims-Hilditch, Founder, Neptune. 'A great way to ensure functionality and style is to team a sleek, contemporary glass-topped desk with a cupboard-style workstation. That way you can tidy your computer and paperwork behind closed doors – perfect if your home office is part of another room.'

8 Empire building

To 'own' your workspace in the true sense, ensure all the items you need are stored within arm's reach. 'This desk has traditional good looks and generous space to work,' says Anna Trinder, Director, The Dormy House. 'There's plenty of storage in pedestals either side, which offer space for hanging files behind disguised double-depth drawers. To personalise your office, hang a noticeboard above the desk, made up in a fabric from our collection or one you've supplied.'



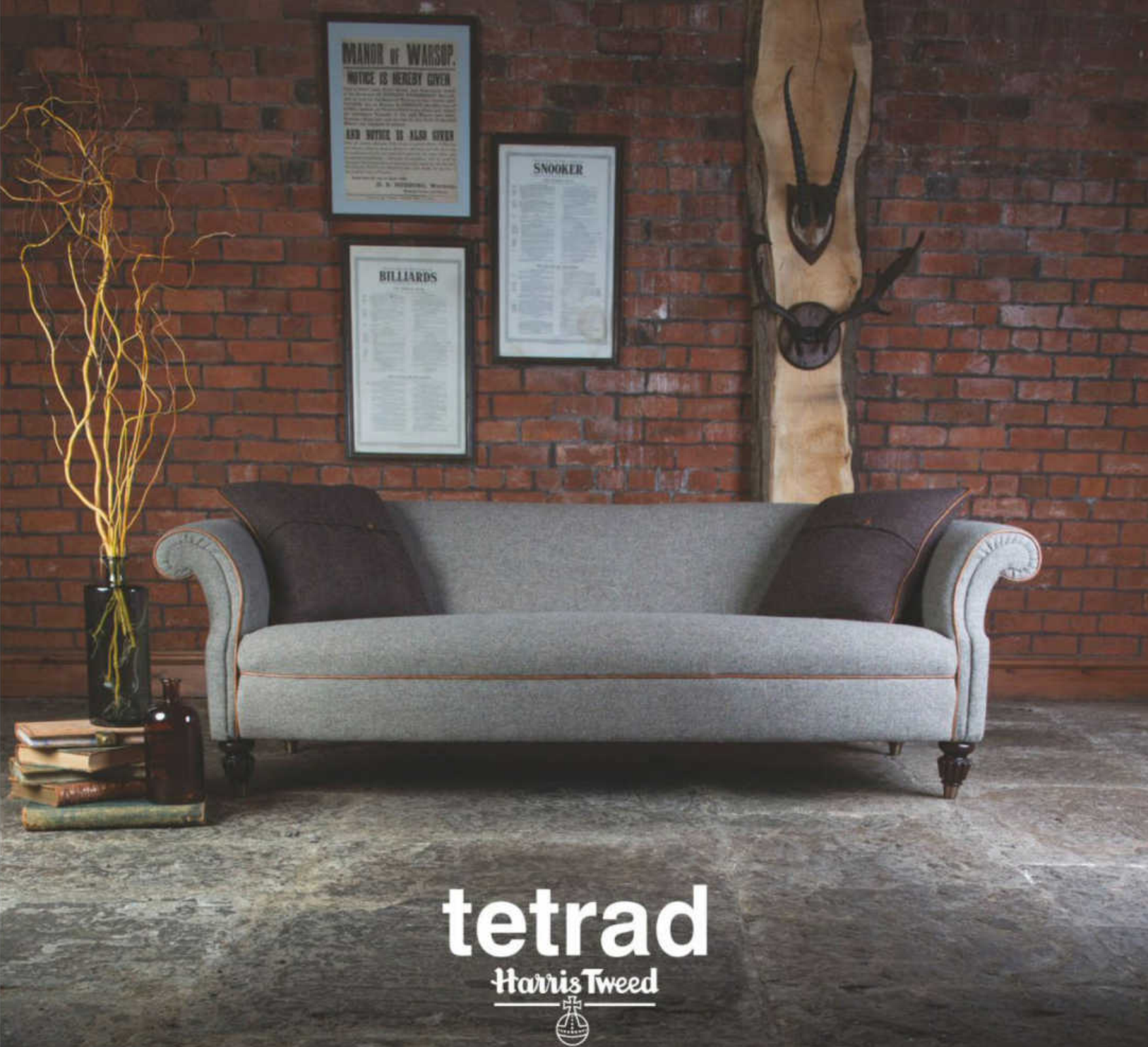
New Hampshire Solo **desk,** H76xW152xD65cm, £735; New Hampshire tall modular **bookcases,** H217xW51xD30cm, £295 each; **noticeboard** (as seen), £144.50, all The Dormy House.

Country style need-to-know

- **LIGHTEN THE LOAD** With the shift to laptops, tablets and online storage, those large desks that once accommodated desktop computers are being replaced by airier designs – try Made.com for contemporary styles or look further back for inspiration to the time of the elegant 'bonheur du jour' or ladies' writing table. Oka's small Campaign writing desk, £265, has a foldaway top.
- **STAND UP FOR HEALTH** Studies tell us it's better for our bodies to stand than sit, so get up at least once an hour to move around or, better still, invest in one of the new standing desks. The Humanscale Float height-adjustable desk, £1,399, John Lewis, is counterbalanced so can be raised from sitting to standing height with one hand.
- **KEEP A TIDY SPACE** When you're planning storage, think of it in three stages: work in progress is on your desk; reference materials live on open shelves; and items that are rarely needed can go behind cupboard doors on the highest or lowest shelves.

FEATURE CAROLINE RODRIGUES

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Harris Tweed

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The latest looks for patterned carpet

FEEL THE JOY FOR THE SPOTS, STRIPES AND PLAIDS THAT ARE DANCING ACROSS COUNTRY FLOORS THIS SEASON. FROM DEEP, RICH TO PARED-BACK PALETTES, THEY'RE THE PERFECT WAY TO INSERT COLOUR AND WARMTH



USA **carpet,** 100% wool, £41 sq m, New Worlds collection, Kersaint Cobb.

1 Linear look

'More and more, striped carpets are being used all over the house, especially in living rooms, dining rooms and playrooms,' says Mike Richardson, Managing Director, Kersaint Cobb. 'When walls and furnishings are plain and neutral, the flooring becomes the focal point of a room. Carpets in deep, rich colours not only evoke a warm and cosy feel, but are practical for high-traffic areas where dirt can become an issue.'



2 Urban country

'This season, we are seeing a resurgence in classic patterns and prints,' says Lynne Pound, Product Manager, Brintons. 'The City Plaids collection is a celebration of this. We have been inspired by the trends for vintage and reclaimed textiles, and created subtle colour palettes in soft antique hues, Harris tweed tones and with hints of hot pink that promise a comforting feel – perfect for country living rooms and dining rooms where you want to create a homely atmosphere for welcoming friends and family.'

Knightsbridge **carpet,** 80% wool/20% nylon, £80 sq m, City Plaids collection, Brintons.

3 Sweet spot

Gentle pastels and ice-cream shades have a natural affinity with country homes. 'The putty colours seen in our Padstow collection are some of our most popular as they convey a fresh, modern feel,' says Natalie Littlehales, Consumer Marketing Manager, Brintons. 'This Candy Spot design is perfect for high-traffic areas such as stairs and hallways as it is made from a wool/nylon blend, combining softness and strength.' »



Candy Spot **carpet,** 80% wool/20% nylon, £75 sq m, Padstow collection, Brintons.

Tip A wool carpet is still the natural choice for country homes. Not only is it warm and soft underfoot, it's also naturally flame retardant and environmentally friendly because the fibres are biodegradable.



Shuttle **carpet,** 80% wool/ 20% nylon, col Jack, £95.85 sq m, Quirky B collection, Margo Selby for Alternative Flooring at John Lewis.

4 Heritage piece

'Much of my work is inspired by the weaving process itself, and our patterns reflect the organised nature of the craft,' says designer Margo Selby of her collection for Alternative Flooring. 'The designs are inspired by hand-woven deflected double-weave cloths that I had been developing on my handloom. I loved seeing them in this new scale, making a feature of the floor.'



Bloomsbury **carpet,** 80% wool/20% nylon, col Summer Breeze, £63 sq m, Boho collection, Ulster Carpets.

5 Flower power

'Florals are back, but ditsy prints have been replaced with bold, statement patterns,' says Clare Jenkinson, Designer, Ulster Carpets. 'Retro-inspired boho designs like this are a playful way of connecting the garden to the interior of a home. The pattern co-ordinates with the five other designs in the collection or can be teamed with a plain Wilton for a flowing scheme.'

6 New geometrics

'Honeycomb is a fresh take on the geometric trend and its organic look makes it an appealing design,' says Lorna Haigh, Head of Marketing, Alternative Flooring. 'Have confidence when using these soft geometrics throughout the home. To avoid pattern overload, start with a statement floor and build your decorating scheme around it. Pick out an accent shade and play with different scales of pattern. Let the carpet sing!'



Honeycomb **carpet,** 80% wool/20% nylon, col Duck Egg, £88.20 sq m, Quirky B collection, Alternative Flooring.

Country style need-to-know

- **CREATE VISUAL IMPACT** Use pattern with plain inventively to highlight an area; think 'inside' the box and inset a patterned 'rug' into plain carpet to define a seating or dining area. A striped carpet runner will add more of a zing to stairs when partnered with plain carpet in a co-ordinating colour in a hallway or on a landing.
- **CONSIDER SUBTLE PATTERN** If strong pattern is a step too far for your home, choose a muted, neutral colourway and smaller design, or opt for a textural pattern instead of a colour mix. Patterns will appear more defined in a flatweave carpet than in one where the tufts soften the edges of the design.
- **MAKE A LASTING CHOICE** Warm, inviting wool is the luxurious choice for carpet as it stands up to wear and dirt, and has a natural bounce so that it will spring back if flattened. Wool is often blended with a synthetic fibre in order to give the carpet strength.

FEATURE CAROLINE RODRIGUES

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1

BEST FOR... Versatility

Chesney's, £1,842

The Shoreditch multifuel 6kW stove comes in woodburner and multifuel options with outputs to suit different room sizes. 'A woodburner is energy efficient – you can turn down the oxygen feed for a slow burn or up for a fast and furious flame,' says Paul Chesney, Managing Director, Chesney's. 'The flames create a wonderful atmosphere and the heat output is substantial.'



2

BEST FOR... Statement style

ACR Heat Products, £1,485

'The contemporary design of the 5kW Neo 3P with its pedestal and three large viewing panes is ideal for a freestanding position,' says Vicky Naylor, General Manager, ACR Heat Products. 'The flue can exit through an adjacent wall, or can be taken up to the room above and out through the roof. Ask your registered installer about your best option.'



3

BEST FOR... Efficiency

Aga Stoves, £2,295

'We've noticed greater demand for stoves with large glass windows, which offer a fantastic "flame picture" such as in our 5.9kW Dorrington woodburner,' says Nigel Morrison, Marketing Manager, Aga Stoves. 'The Active Airflow system helps keep the glass clear and also ensures that the stove burns efficiently and maintains optimum heat output.'



4

BEST FOR... Smoke control areas

Stovax, £1,195 (plus bench, £375)

If you live in a town or city, you're probably in a smoke control area. 'In this case, only authorised smokeless fuels can be used in a multifuel stove,' says Marcus Eastwood, Senior Technical Adviser, Stovax. 'To burn wood, your stove must, like the 5kW Vogue Midi, meet Defra standards for particularly low emissions.'



5

BEST FOR... Colour

Charnwood, £1,125 (including store stand, shown)

The 6.7kW C-Six woodburner is available in eight shades. 'Though Black and Almond are our most popular stove colours, there's a growing trend in shades such as Bronze,' says Ced Wells, Director, Charnwood. 'The soft, warmer tone works well in a country home. We also sell paint touch-up kits to repair any knocks or scratches.'

Country style need-to-know

- **ADAPT YOUR STOVE TO SUIT YOUR STYLE** It's no longer a case of what you see is what you get. The latest stoves come with a choice of long or short legs, a plinth base, log store or can be wall-mounted. And for a contemporary look, an insert stove can be slotted into the chimney breast for a flush fit.
- **KNOW YOUR METALS** Traditional stoves are often in solid, dependable cast iron, the ideal material for creating intricate designs, while lighter-weight steel bends easily to suit the curves of the more modern cylindrical designs. Often the two materials are combined in a stove that has a steel body and cast-iron doors.
- **AVOID WET OR GREEN WOOD** Buy logs with a moisture content of 20% or less, or store fresh logs under cover for one to two years to dry (use a moisture meter). Driftwood is a bad idea as the high salt content can damage your stove and chimney.

FEATURE CAROLINE RODRIGUES

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A place of plenty

A BEAUTIFUL WALLED GARDEN IS IN SAFE HANDS WITH FLORIST MARGARET FINCH AS SHE CARRIES ON ITS PRODUCTIVE PAST »

Margaret and her husband Tony enjoy wonderful views from the former gardener's cottage over their flourishing walled garden.

The shed with extended roof and table beneath is where Margaret prepares her flowers for sale.



AT HOME WITH...

Owners Former florist Margaret Finch and her nurseryman husband, Tony, who live here with cats Treacle, Sooty and Bramble. Daughter Michelle is a frequent visitor and helps out in the garden.

House The gardener's cottage for Farley Hill Place was built when the garden was created in 1725 and added to in the 1950s and 1980s.

Garden A 1.5-acre walled garden with a large productive area and a cutting garden. There are apple trees, grass beds and a central colonnade.

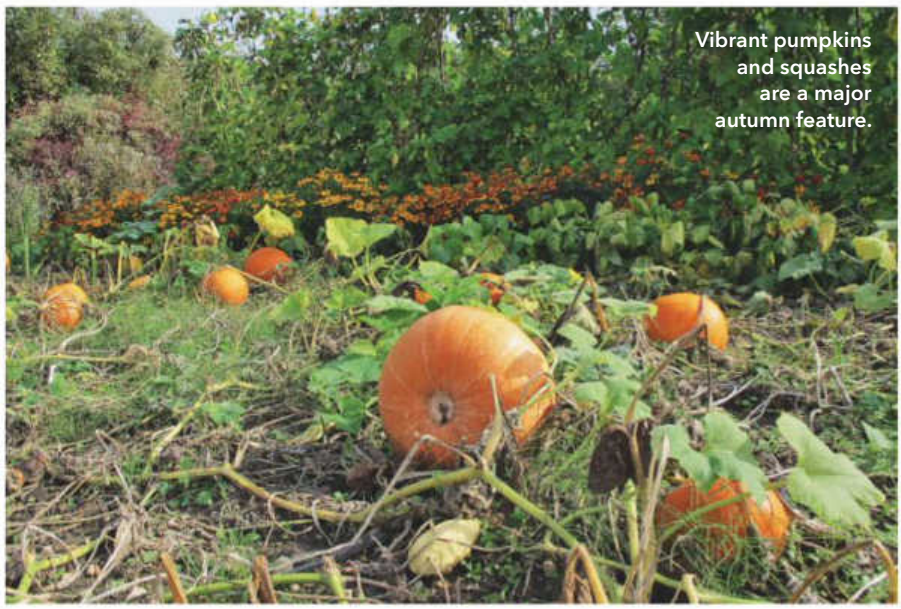
There once was a time when every 'big house' would have had a kitchen garden. Surrounded by walls to shelter the produce from the weather, they were tended by an army of skilled gardeners, who supplied the estate with year-round fruit and vegetables.

Time and tide has seen the demise of many of these gardens, but at Farley Hill Place Gardens in Berkshire, Margaret and Tony Finch have arranged for their 300-year-old walled garden to be not only a history-steeped vision of beauty, but also one filled with abundant cutting flowers, fruit and vegetables.

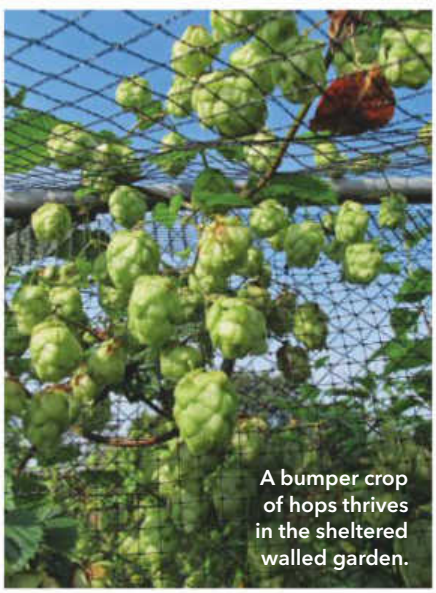
Margaret was born to gardening. 'Both sets of grandparents had market gardens and I had my own little vegetable patch when I was a small child,' she says, 'so I suppose it was a natural progression for me. As soon as I left school at 16, I started working in a florist's shop. We grew 30,000 anemone corms at home and I took the flowers to sell in the shop. I quickly progressed to growing flowers to sell elsewhere.'

An early entrepreneur, Margaret went on to open her own flower shop in her late twenties, building up a small chain of businesses. She and Tony grew all the bread-and-butter plants such as bedding, vegetable plants and sweet peas for the shops themselves and when they semi-retired, six years ago, they sought a place where they could continue to grow plants for charity garden openings. Farley Hill Place Gardens had spent two-and-a-half centuries as part of the estate before eventually being sold off. Like so many others it went to rack and ruin until, in the »





Vibrant pumpkins and squashes are a major autumn feature.



A bumper crop of hops thrives in the sheltered walled garden.

What we love most about this garden...

'Getting up in the morning and going out into the garden to see what treasures are emerging that day'





Margaret uses a lot of crimson love-lies-bleeding, *Amaranthus caudatus*, in her arrangements.





Deep borders, filled with a purple haze of asters and lofty eupatorium, surround the cutting garden.



The broad avenue of heritage eating apple trees.

1980s, it was rescued. Restored and replanted with a painterly touch, this was the garden the Finches inherited.

'The previous owner had a very good eye for colour and putting plants together for contrast, and the garden we moved into was already mature,' says Margaret. 'My trouble is that there is not a plant out there that I don't want, and it would cost a fortune to have to start from scratch!'

To Margaret's florist sensibilities, the garden was perfect. The high brick walls preside over deep, well stocked shrub and perennial borders and the enclosed one-and-a-half acres are divided into distinct areas, bisected by a central walkway. Near the house, mature trees and open lawns are surrounded by tall grasses, evergreens, seasonal colour and herbaceous perennials. Climbers festoon the vertical surfaces and the crisp edges are softened by a romantic haze of flowers and foliage.

The bottom half of the garden is still highly productive. Outside her shed, Margaret has created a new herb garden and a large area is dedicated to the cut flowers and vegetables that she grows both for her own enjoyment and to take to market each week.

'We plant 300 dahlia tubers, 600 gladioli and 20 different types of sweet peas. Then there are the annuals like amaranthus, zinnias, cosmos, nigella and antirrhinums,' she says. 'We have a full complement of vegetables, and every squash you can think of we try to grow! Usually, we sow around 35 different varieties including 'Turk's Turban', 'Queensland Blue' and 'Festival'. And »

Modern Country Classic

Seasonal details

Structure, planting and finishing touches will make the autumn garden sing.

Need to know...

- Doorways and pergolas can frame vistas while gaps in the planting can be used to create a surprise view.
- Structural plants and seedheads will carry the garden from summer into winter. Plants like phlomis, *Sedum spectabile* and hydrangeas are particularly hard-working.
- Don't cut perennials down too early, as they will be transformed by frost and provide a soft background to late-season splashes of colour.
- Elevate the ordinary to art by placing pumpkins, pots or old garden tools where they can appear ornamental.



A pergola covers the walkway that crosses the middle of the garden creating 'windows' that frame views over the lawn.

we plant 30 varieties of pumpkin, too, including 'Howden Big Boy', 'Atlantic Giant', 'Cinderella' and 'Jack Be Little'.'

The fertile, loamy, well drained soil is the legacy of generations of good management and is topped up with homemade compost and farmyard manure. In the meantime, for Margaret, the cutting garden represents a poetic circle of mutual benefit. 'The garden needs the productive side. The market needs my garden. And my garden needs the market!' she says.

This is a place that both welcomes and tempts – a friendly, intriguing space with a rich tapestry of plants, ever-changing with the play of light and season. It abundantly rewards Margaret's considerable horticultural efforts and she has a sense that she is treading in the footsteps of the gardeners who have gone before. "There must be a few of them up there thinking, "What on earth is she up to today?" But if they could just come down and help a bit, that would be nice!' she says.

Opening the garden for charity is still a very important part of her life. 'It's a homely place and the ambience is lovely, very approachable. We set out to maintain and improve the garden, make an enjoyable place for people to visit – that's what spurs us on. We might sometimes be up against the elements, but it gives us a great sense of pride and achievement.'

☎ Farley Hill Place Gardens, Church Road, Farley Hill, Reading, Berkshire RG7 1TZ. Visitors welcome by arrangement in September for groups of 15 or more. Visit ngs.org.uk for details. »



ON OUR DOORSTEP...

Visit... 'Yateley Country Market (01252 877611, yateleycountrymarket.org) in Monteagle Hall. It's packed with planters and fresh-cut flowers, as well as preserves and crafts. Fridays, 9.45-11.45am.'

Shop at... 'Henry Street Garden Centre (0118 976 1223, henrystreet.co.uk) in Arborfield, a family-owned business with a large range of plants and equipment.'

Go for a meal at... 'The George & Dragon (0118 988 4432, georgeanddragonswallowfield.co.uk) in Swallowfield, for hearty food, real ales and an open fire.'



What makes this garden so special...

'Both sun and shade-loving plants grow well here, so we can have everything we want!'

At this time of year, the walkway through the garden all but disappears under a froth of asters and golden grasses.


1


2


3


4

Margaret's autumn favourites

1 *Chrysanthemum* 'Cranbrae Red' flowers as the days get shorter.

2 *Cornus controversa*, the wedding cake tree, has rich, red leaves in autumn.

3 *Aster amellus* lights up the late-season border.

4 *Abutilon* x *suntense* 'Jermyns' has handsome architectural seedheads.

5 *Lonicera sempervirens'* scarlet berries stud the wall like jewels.

6 *Clematis viticella* has greenish flowers that give way to silky seedheads.

7 *Aster novae-angliae* 'Mrs S T Wright' is a gorgeous fizzy pink shade.

8 *Leycesteria formosa* makes a handsome architectural plant.


5


6


7


8

FEATURE AND PHOTOGRAPHS NAOMI SLADE

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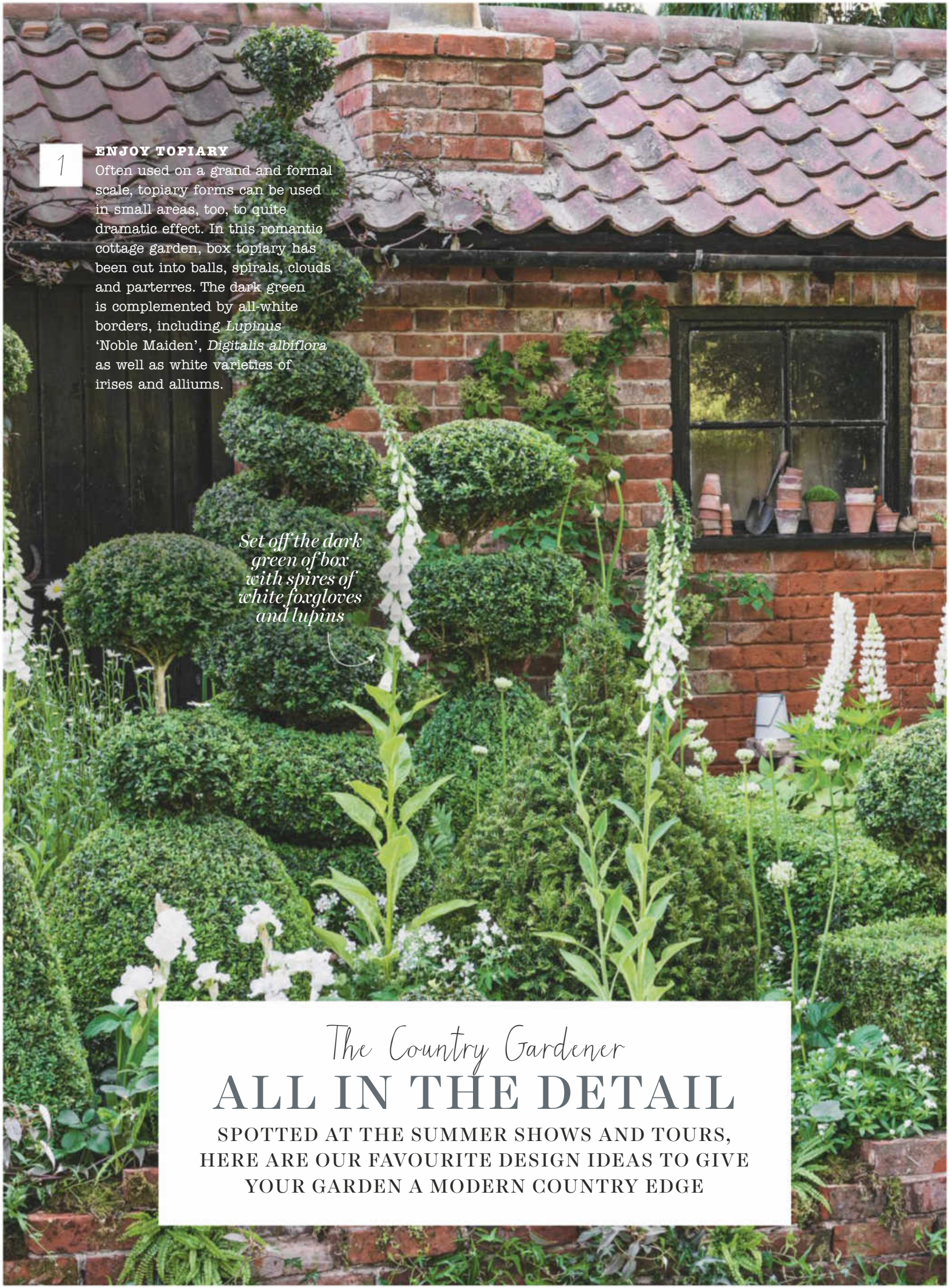
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1

ENJOY TOPIARY

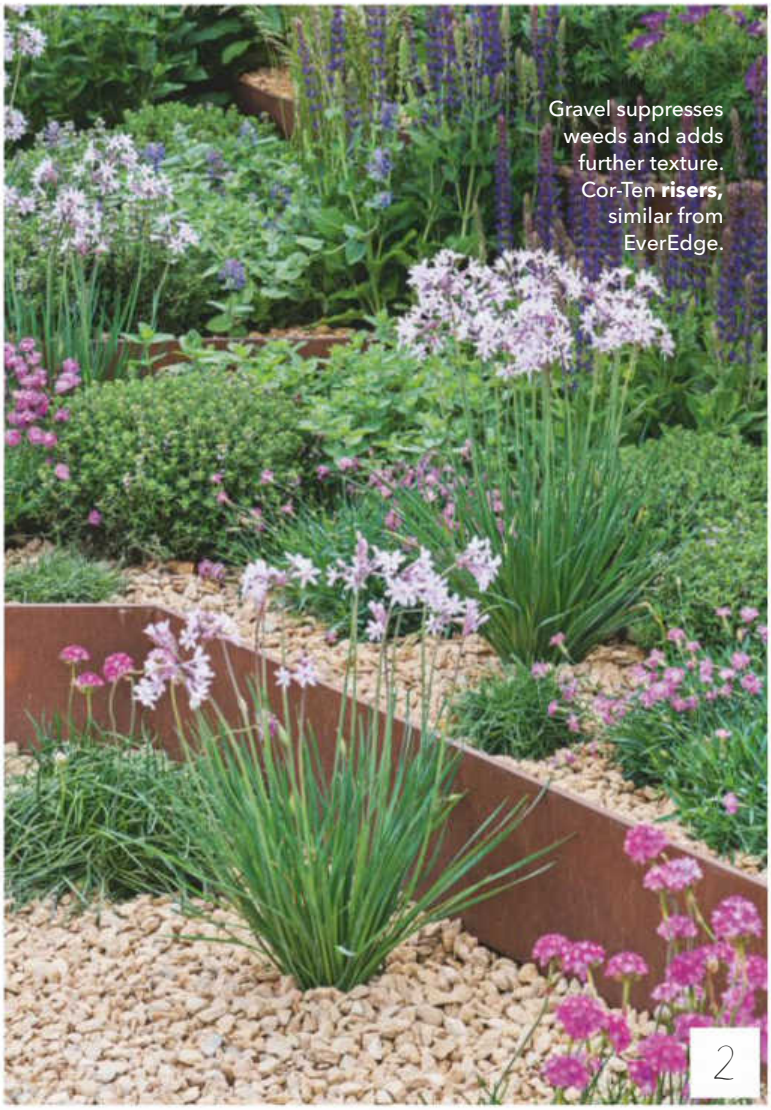
Often used on a grand and formal scale, topiary forms can be used in small areas, too, to quite dramatic effect. In this romantic cottage garden, box topiary has been cut into balls, spirals, clouds and parterres. The dark green is complemented by all-white borders, including *Lupinus* 'Noble Maiden', *Digitalis albiflora* as well as white varieties of irises and alliums.

Set off the dark green of box with spires of white foxgloves and lupins

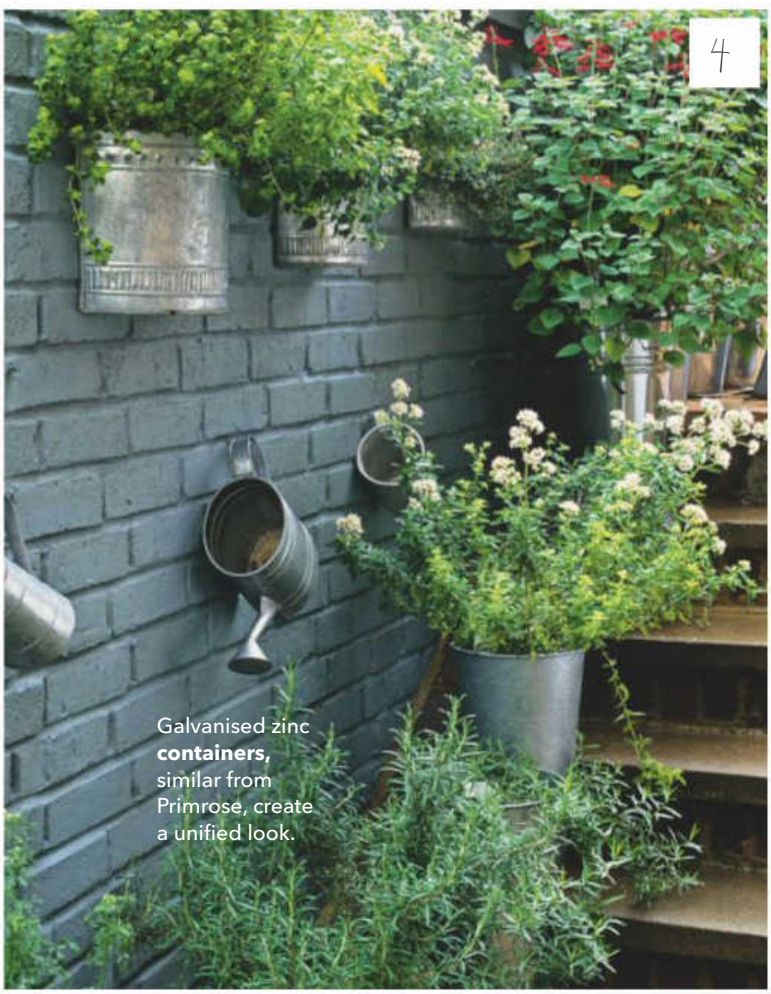
The Country Gardener

ALL IN THE DETAIL

SPOTTED AT THE SUMMER SHOWS AND TOURS, HERE ARE OUR FAVOURITE DESIGN IDEAS TO GIVE YOUR GARDEN A MODERN COUNTRY EDGE







2 INTRODUCE TEXTURE WITH RUSTED METAL

Rusted metal evokes memories of weather-worn wheelbarrows and water butts, once so familiar in country gardens. Get the look with Cor-Ten risers, here softened by tufts of *Salvia* x *sylvestris* 'Mainacht', *Thymus vulgaris*, *Armeria maritima*, *Nepeta* x *faassenii* and *Tulbaghia violacea*.

3 PLANT LIVING GROUTING

Stone paving separated by plants rather than cement makes for a more romantic look. These slabs are laid with wide gaps and have mind-your-own-business grown between. A vigorous ground cover, it likes full sun or partial shade and is very hardy – or try thyme. Either will break up paving and complement luxurious planting.

4 ADD A LICK OF PAINT

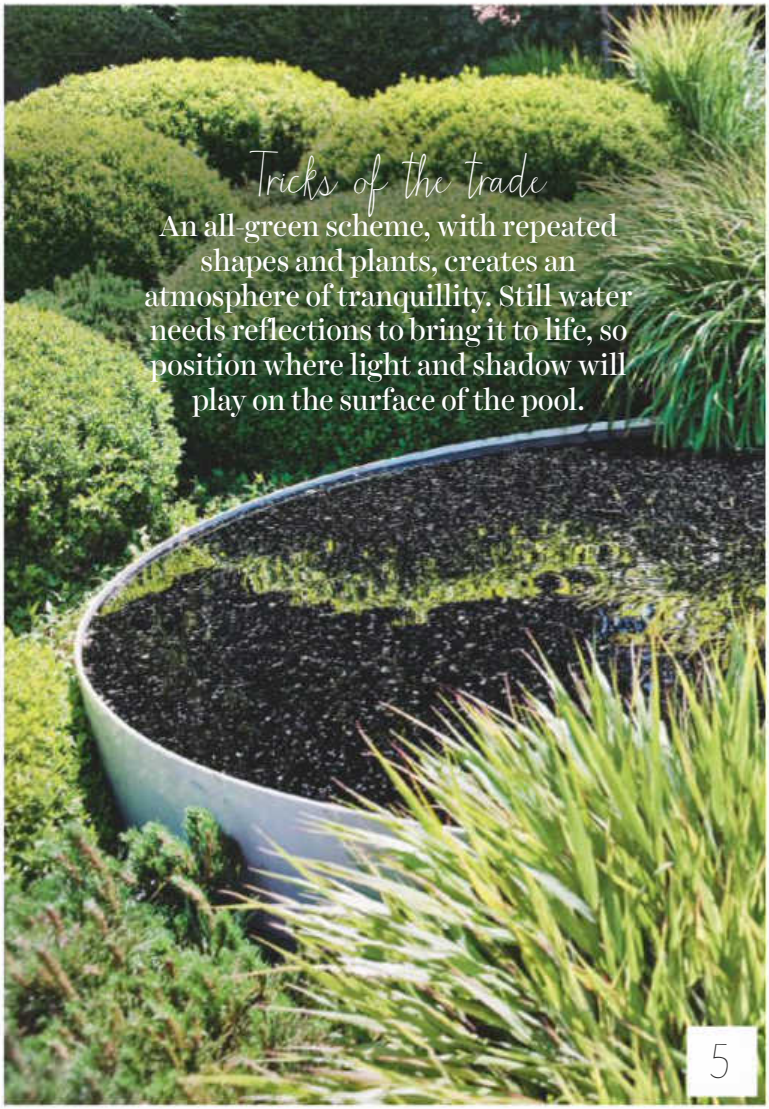
Feature walls are popular in interiors, so why not outside, too? Cheer up a wall or outbuilding by painting it in a rich hue and use it as a backdrop for plants and pots. Choose colours according to how much sun or shade the wall gets, as you would inside. This green (Farrow & Ball's Green Smoke is similar) livens up a dark area outside the kitchen, with zinc containers catching the light. »

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Tricks of the trade

An all-green scheme, with repeated shapes and plants, creates an atmosphere of tranquillity. Still water needs reflections to bring it to life, so position where light and shadow will play on the surface of the pool.

5



A garden **bench,** similar from English Salvage, provides a pretty focal point and a perfect spot to admire your handiwork.

6

5 REFLECT UPON A CONTEMPORARY POOL

Bringing water into the garden needn't involve complicated construction and technology – it can be as simple as a large tub. Here, where less is definitely more, a shallow zinc cylinder filled with water becomes a stunning pool surrounded by box balls and low arching grasses.

6 ON THE RIGHT PATH

Install a path that's more than just a route from A to B. If an all-weather surface is needed to get you to the end of the garden, make it look special with sympathetic materials such as old weathered bricks laid in slightly wobbly lines. To conjure up a dreamy timeless feel, edge it with borders of lavender, euphorbia, nepeta and pinks.

7 CREATE A GREEN WALL

Vertical gardening is a great way to turn a wall into living art. At its simplest it consists of trailing or climbing plants in wall-mounted containers or pockets, sometimes with polythene sheeting behind. Find containers from a specialist supplier such as Green Walls. When it comes to plants, think useful as well as decorative. Regular and even watering is essential, or include an irrigation drip system.



7

Like a tall herb garden, this green wall is planted with oregano, trailing thymes, chives and nasturtiums, just waiting to be picked and snipped in salads.

FEATURE ANNE DE VERTEUIL **PHOTOGRAPHS** NICOLA STOCKEN/GARDENPIX (MAIN, 2, 3); GAP PHOTOS/JONATHAN BUCKLEY (4); ANDREA JONES (5, 6, 7)

SEE PAGE 163 FOR PHONE NUMBERS AND WEBSITES



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2 November – 4 December 2015

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My Design School at KLC

*Course RRP £399. Offer ends 2nd November 2015.

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Swedish design with a green soul



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10 WAYS TO

Make life lovely

FASHION, WELLBEING, ECO, PETS, TRAVEL AND OTHER NICE THINGS

1 Set up a village book group

READ ALL ABOUT IT! WHETHER YOU WANT TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS OR RECONNECT WITH OLD ONES, THIS IS A GREAT WAY TO SOCIALISE WITH FELLOW LOVERS OF LITERATURE...

Spread the word. Put up a poster in your local library and push leaflets through letterboxes. Aim to have between six and ten people in the group. **Suggest a book three or four weeks before you meet.** Let everyone in the group have a say – a different member can choose each time going forwards. **Pick a time and place.** Take turns meeting at one another's homes or opt for a quiet café. **Get creative with meeting places –** why not vary the location based on the setting or theme of the book? **Prepare a list of questions** to get the discussion started. **Organise a day out to a literary landmark –** see the rugged Yorkshire moors that inspired Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights* (bronte-country.com), or visit Jane Austen's house in the heart of rural Hampshire (jane-austens-house-museum.org.uk).

2 DESIGN A RUSTIC DOG BED

Make your pet's sleeping space extra special with a personalised bed, upcycled from a sustainable apple crate. With a dipped front for access and a washable lining, it makes the perfect addition to a country home - choose from 10 colours and have your pet's name added. From £39.95, Plantabox.





Green tweed **coat,** £130; blue twisted knit **cardigan,** £75; scattered spot tea **dress,** col Grape, £75, all Cath Kidston.

3 Go for cosy layers

Don't pack away your warm-weather wardrobe just yet – woolly tights and a chunky cardigan make a light cotton dress more seasonal. Complete the look with an oversized tweed jacket to keep you toasty as temperatures drop.

4 KICK UP AUTUMN LEAVES

Found a lovely leaf? Download the Leafsnap app onto your iPhone (free, Natural History Museum) and share a picture to discover which tree it belongs to. Learn all about our native species with mini fact files and browse over 2,000 beautiful images of fruits, flowers, seeds and more. »



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5 GO WILD WITH Sloes

MAKE THIS FRUITY GIN TIPPLE AND LET IT MATURE FOR AROUND THREE MONTHS, JUST IN TIME FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON

Find ripe sloes growing on blackthorn bushes in hedgerows – wear gloves when picking to protect against prickles. Tradition says they should be collected after the first frost to soften their skins, but freezing them overnight works just as well.



Wash 500g fruit and pierce the skins with a fork. Place into a Kilner jar with 250g sugar and one litre of gin. **Store in a cool, dark cupboard** and shake every few days until all the sugar has dissolved. **Strain out** the sloes after three months – for a sweet treat, mix the sloes with 500g dark chocolate and toasted hazelnuts, then spread onto parchment paper and leave to set. **Decant your sloe gin** into decorative bottles and add a label.



6 *Make a hallway happy*

Vibrant and hardwearing, these eco-friendly rugs and cushions are ideal for brightening up entrance halls and boot rooms – just in time for welly boot weather. From £62 for a cushion and £75 for a rug, Dash & Albert.

7 TELL A RIPPING YARN

Storytelling is a pleasure that is often underrated. Whether it's around the dinner table or by the campfire, let your imagination run wild and take the time to share your favourite tale.

8 Empty a tired mind

SOOTHE AWAY CARES WITH THESE FRAGRANT STRESS-RELIEVING ELIXIRS…

- Gentle, soft and rich in vitamins and antioxidants, this relaxing blend of orange and geranium targets stress, sleep problems and low energy. De-Stress Bath Oil, £10.95 for 100ml, Tisserand.
- This blend of calming essential oils – including lavender, jasmine and rosewood – nourishes tired skin. Daily De-Stress Face, Body & Hair Oil, £32 for 100ml, Neom Organics.
- A luxurious treat fragranced with rosemary, frankincense and camomile, which are known for their clarifying powers. De-Stress Mind Bath & Shower Oil, £45 for 55ml, Aromatherapy Associates.



9 Buy British ARTHUR PRICE

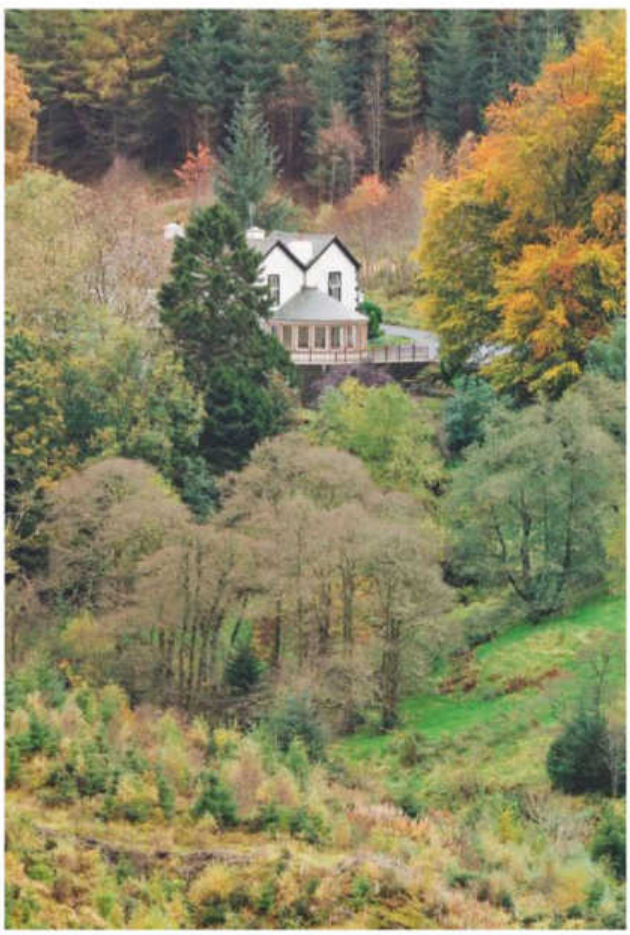
Creating beautiful cutlery has been a passion at this Birmingham manufacturer for four generations, with founder, Arthur Price, setting up the business in 1902. Renowned worldwide for quality craftsmanship, the company has been awarded two Royal Warrants and has created bespoke silverware for the *Titanic*, Concorde and The Savoy. We love the tactile Rivelin collection (from £2.95 a piece), designed by Sophie Conran and inspired by the river of the same name in the Pennines. Call 01543 257775, arthurprice.com. »



10

Eat well and sleep over

ENJOY DELICIOUS SEASONAL FOOD AT THESE WELCOMING PUBS AND RESTAURANTS WITH ROOMS



THE COTTAGE IN THE WOOD, CUMBRIA

We love it because... This former coaching inn, located in the heart of Whinlatter, England's only true mountain forest, is absolutely spectacular in autumn. **What is the food like?** Head Chef Chris Archer uses traditional methods and Michelin-star experience to create delicious meals featuring local ingredients, including Herdwick hogget from the surrounding fells and fish from Whitehaven Harbour. **And what about the accommodation?** There is a range of accommodation here, from the cosy cottage rooms to the luxurious garden room. **How much?** Dinner, bed and breakfast costs from £210 a night. **The Cottage in the Wood, 017687 78409, the cottageinthewood.co.uk.**

THE MUSEUM INN, DORSET

We love it because... Surrounded by rolling countryside near the Jurassic Coast, this 17th-century pub offers delicious food and a cosy residents' sitting room. **What is the food like?** The experienced kitchen staff serve mouthwatering menus created from locally sourced seasonal produce. Children's menus are available and there's a play area to keep them entertained. **And the accommodation?** Choose a double en suite in the main house or converted stables. A cottage is also available for larger groups. **How much?** From £90 for a stable room including breakfast. **The Museum Inn, 01725 516261, museuminn.co.uk.**



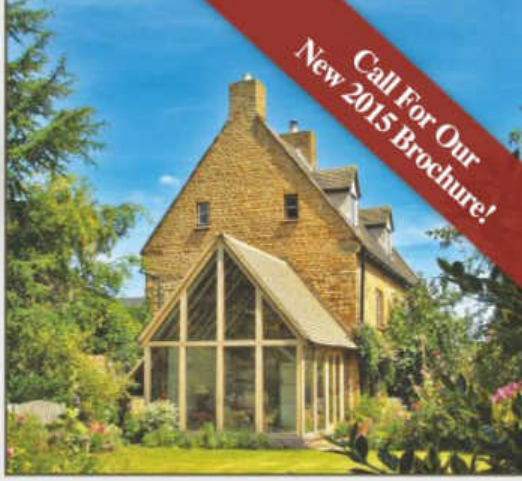
THE GREYHOUND ON THE TEST, HAMPSHIRE

We love it because... Set in an idyllic location by the River Test, this award-winning gastropub is the perfect place for riverside rambles. **What is the food like?** Head Chef Neil Cooper creates modern British dishes, from Stockbridge mushrooms and crispy sage to hearty mains featuring corn-fed chicken with sautéed new potatotes, runner beans and black pudding. **And the accommodation?** Choose from cottage rooms next door to rooms upstairs, all ensuite and beautifully decorated. **How much?** From £190 a night including breakfast. **The Greyhound on the Test, 01264 810833, thegreyhound onthetest.co.uk.**



FEATURE TARA KING, COLUMBA COLIVET **PHOTOGRAPHS** (LEAVES) TIMEINCUKCONTENT.COM, (SLOES) GETTY IMAGES/DORLING KINDERSLEY, (DE-STRESS OILS) RHAPSODY







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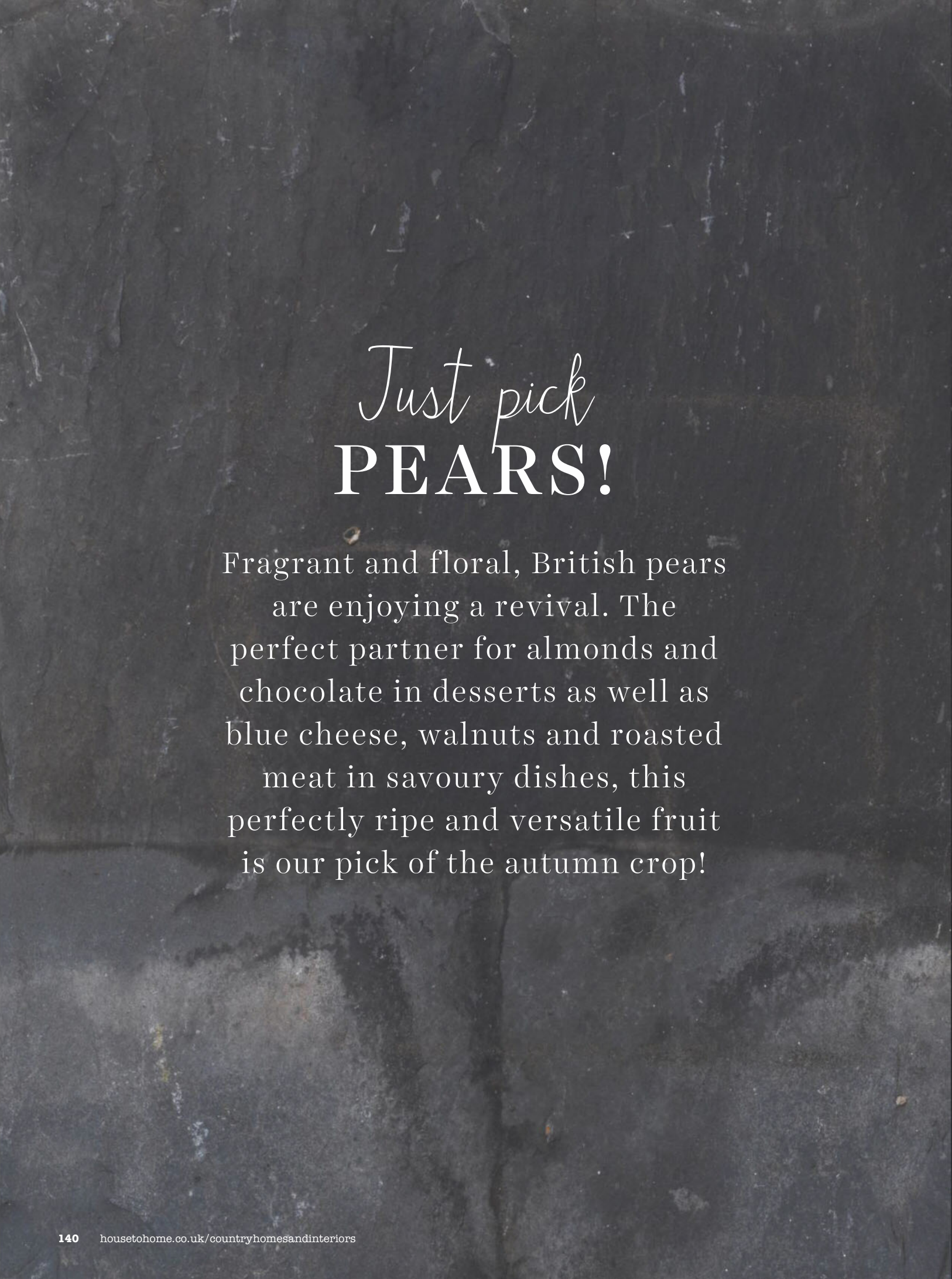
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From the makers of
PRIME OAK



Just pick PEARS!

Fragrant and floral, British pears are enjoying a revival. The perfect partner for almonds and chocolate in desserts as well as blue cheese, walnuts and roasted meat in savoury dishes, this perfectly ripe and versatile fruit is our pick of the autumn crop!



Buy pears slightly firm then ripen at home. When they are ready they should give a little at the base when gently pressed. »



Tasting notes

The pear season generally runs from September to late October. Shop at farmers' markets and farm shops to find a range of delicious varieties.

Conference – sweet, aromatic and juicy. Cooks and eats well.

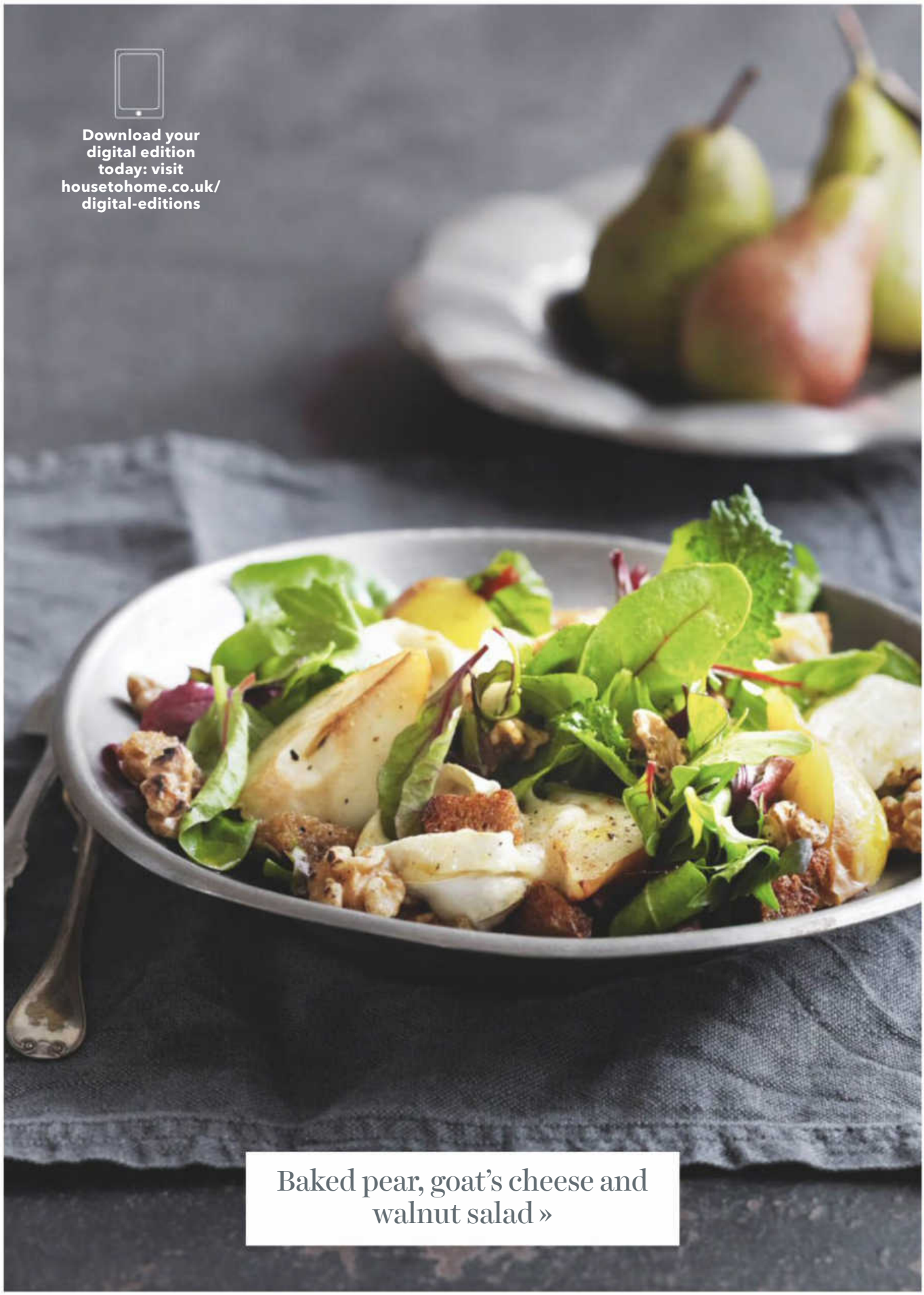
Doyenné du Comice – lovely flavour and juicy melting flesh. One of the best eaters, particularly with cheese.

Concorde – delicious buttery texture with a vanilla sweetness. Ideal for cooking, especially baking, and eating.

Williams – good flavour and honeyed ripeness. Try roasting to serve with game, or poaching in wine.

Beurre Hardy – eating pear with great flavour and buttery melting flesh. Good in clafoutis and jam.

Rack of lamb with pear chutney and parsnip mash



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Baked pear, goat's cheese and walnut salad »

RACK OF LAMB WITH PEAR CHUTNEY AND PARSNIP MASH

A comforting autumn dish of roast lamb and mash enlivened by a simple pear chutney.
SERVES 6

For the chutney
2 onions, chopped
1 unwaxed lemon, halved and sliced as thinly as possible
1 tsp fennel seeds
175g golden caster sugar
1 garlic clove, crushed
200ml white wine vinegar
6 large firm pears, such as Conference, peeled, cored and diced
60g sultanas
For the lamb
2 small French-trimmed racks of lamb, each with 6-7 ribs
2 tsp chopped rosemary, plus extra sprigs to garnish
2 tsp chopped thyme
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
1 tbsp olive oil
For the parsnip mash
900g parsnips, cut into chunks
1 medium floury potato, cut into chunks
4 tbsp crème fraîche
25g butter
Seasonal vegetables, to serve

1 To make the chutney, put the onions in a saucepan with the lemon, fennel seeds, sugar, garlic and vinegar and bring to a gentle simmer. Cover and cook very gently for about 25 minutes, until the lemon slices are tender.
2 Stir in the pears and sultanas and cook, covered, for a further 20 minutes until the pears are tender and the syrup has reduced slightly. Transfer to sterilised jars, cover and leave to cool. Keeps for a month in the fridge.
3 Preheat the oven to 220°C/Fan 200°C/Gas 7. Score the fat side of the lamb with a sharp knife. Mix the chopped herbs with a little seasoning and rub into the meat on all sides. Heat the oil in a frying pan and fry the lamb quickly on the fat side to brown. Transfer to a roasting tin, fat sides uppermost and roast for 20 minutes for rare or allow an extra 10 minutes if you prefer it less pink. Cover and leave to rest in a warm place for 15 minutes.
4 Meanwhile, make the mash, cook the parsnips and potato in boiling water until tender, about 20 minutes. Drain well, return to the saucepan and mash thoroughly with the crème fraîche, butter and plenty of seasoning. Carve the meat between the cutlets and transfer to 6 warmed serving plates with the mash and seasonal vegetables. Spoon over any juices from the roasting tin. Garnish with rosemary and serve with the pear chutney.

BAKED PEAR, GOAT'S CHEESE AND WALNUT SALAD

This salad of ripe pear, slightly salty cheese and crunchy walnuts is a classic.
SERVES 4

25g butter
Good pinch of ground cinnamon
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
4 firm, ripe pears, such as Comice or Williams, cored and cut into wedges
75g walnut halves
1 chunky slice of good-quality bread, cubed, for croutons
For the dressing
3 tbsp olive oil
3 tbsp walnut oil
1 tbsp sherry vinegar (try La Chinata Reserve Sherry Vinegar, The Foodies Larder)
1 tbsp clear honey
½ tsp Dijon mustard
75g mixed salad leaves and 150g goat's cheese, cut into chunks, to serve

1 Preheat the oven to 200°C/Fan 180°C/Gas 6. Melt the butter and mix with the cinnamon and a little salt and freshly ground black pepper. Scatter the pears in a small roasting tin and brush with the cinnamon butter. Bake for 15 minutes. Add the walnuts and bread to the tin, turning them in the butter to coat. Return to the oven for a further 10-15 minutes until the nuts and bread are lightly toasted and the pears just tender.
2 To make the dressing while the pears are cooking, whisk together the two oils, vinegar, honey, mustard and salt and pepper to taste.
3 Scatter the salad leaves over 4 serving plates and arrange the pears, walnuts, croutons and goat's cheese on top. Spoon over the dressing to serve.



Pear bread »

Preserved pears with crispbreads and blue cheese



PEAR BREAD

This French-style bread is topped with fresh herbs and pear slices, and brushed with honey.
MAKES 3

500g strong white bread flour, plus extra for dusting
1½ tsp salt, plus extra to sprinkle
1 tsp finely chopped rosemary, plus extra sprigs to sprinkle
4 tbsp olive oil
20g fresh yeast
275ml hand-hot water
2 firm slender pears, such as Conference
1 tbsp clear honey
Squeeze of lemon juice

1 Put the flour, salt, rosemary and oil in a bowl and crumble in the yeast. Stir in the water using a round-bladed knife until the mixture comes together to make a dough. Add a dash more water if the dough is dry and crumbly. Turn out onto a floured surface and knead for 10 minutes until smooth. Alternatively, knead the dough for 5 minutes using a freestanding mixer with a dough hook attachment.
2 Place the dough in a bowl, cover with clingfilm and leave in a warm place for around 45 minutes, until the dough has doubled in size.
3 Preheat the oven to 250°C/Fan 230°C/Gas 9. Line 2 large baking sheets with baking parchment. Divide the dough into 3 pieces and roll out each to a thin oblong, around 35cm long. Place the pieces on the baking sheets. Preferably using a pizza cutter or otherwise a knife, cut a slit down the centre of each then make small diagonal cuts down the sides (see picture, page 145). Open out the cuts slightly.
4 Cut slices of pear, either side of the core and as thinly as possible. Arrange along the dough, pressing down gently. Mix the honey with a squeeze of lemon juice and brush over the pears and around the edges of the dough. Scatter with rosemary leaves and sprinkle with a little salt.
5 Bake for about 10 minutes until golden. Serve this French-style bread warm with seasonal soups, salads or a cheeseboard.

PRESERVED PEARS WITH CRISPBREADS AND BLUE CHEESE

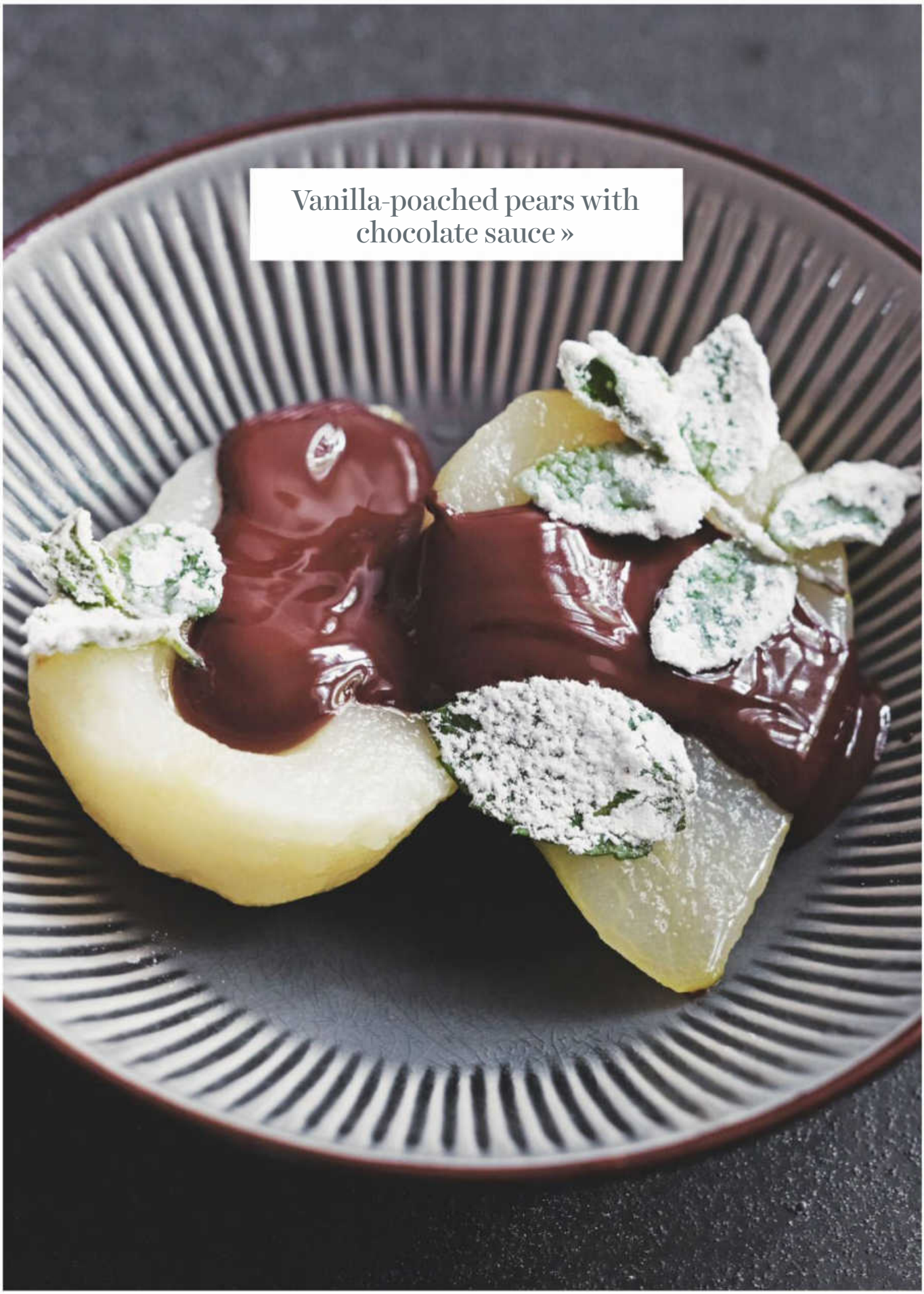
Pears preserved in syrup with a tang of mustard partner crispbreads and blue cheese.
SERVES 4

For the preserved pears
1 tbsp yellow mustard seeds
½ tsp black mustard seeds
150ml white wine vinegar or cider vinegar
115g caster sugar
3 bay leaves
2 generous pinches of cayenne pepper
½ tsp Dijon mustard
½ tsp sea salt
8 firm pears, halved and cored
For the crispbreads
150g self-raising flour, plus extra for dusting
75g medium oatmeal
1 tbsp poppyseeds, plus 1 tsp for sprinkling
½ tsp salt
125ml milk
Blue-veined cheese, such as Stilton

1 Make the preserved pears a day ahead if you can – they keep up to a week in the fridge. Put the mustard seeds in a medium saucepan and heat until the seeds start to pop. Remove the pan from the heat and leave for 2 minutes. Add the vinegar, sugar, bay leaves, cayenne pepper, Dijon and salt. Heat gently until the sugar dissolves. Continue to cook for 5 minutes.
2 Add the pears and cook very gently for 15 minutes or until tender. Turn them occasionally so they cook evenly. Leave to cool completely.
3 For the crispbreads, preheat the oven to 200°C/Fan 180°C/Gas 6. Line a large baking sheet with parchment. Put the flour, oatmeal, 1 tbsp poppyseeds and salt in a bowl and mix. Add the milk and mix with a round-bladed knife to a dough. Turn out onto a floured surface and roll out thinly. Sprinkle with remaining poppyseeds and roll again until very thin and the seeds are pressed in. Use biscuit cutters to cut out leaves (for leaf shapes, try Denny & Sons or Amazon) or rounds. Transfer to the baking sheet and bake for about 15 minutes until crisp and beginning to colour. Transfer to a wire rack to cool. Serve with the cheese.»



Pear and
almond tart



Vanilla-poached pears with chocolate sauce »

PEAR AND ALMOND TART

Serve a slice of this heavenly almondy and fragrant pear tart warm with cream.
SERVES 8-12

175g plain flour, plus extra for dusting
115g firm slightly salted butter
1 medium free-range egg yolk
2 tbsp caster sugar
For the filling
100g slightly salted butter, softened
75g caster sugar
40g ground almonds
Crushed seeds from 12 cardamom pods
1 medium free-range egg, plus 2 egg yolks
100ml double cream
6 small ripe pears, peeled, halved and cored
2 tbsp icing sugar, plus extra (optional)

1 For the pastry, put the flour in a large bowl. Coarsely grate in the butter, stirring now and again. Add the egg yolk and sugar with 4 tbsp cold water and mix with a round-bladed knife. Use your hands to bring the mixture together to make a dough, adding a little more water if dry. Wrap in clingfilm and chill for 30 minutes.
2 Preheat the oven to 200°C/Fan 180°C/Gas 6. Thinly roll out the dough on a lightly floured surface and use to line a loose-based 23cm square or 25cm round tart tin. Line with baking parchment and fill with baking beans. Bake for 20 minutes. Remove the paper and beans and bake for a further 5 minutes. Reduce the oven temperature to 180°C/Fan 160°C/Gas 4.
3 To make the filling, beat the butter together with the sugar, almonds, cardamom seeds, egg and egg yolks until smooth. Stir in the cream.
4 Spoon filling into tart and gently press the pears into it. Sift over the icing sugar and bake for about 40 minutes, until just firm. For a caramelised finish, dust with extra icing sugar after baking and pop briefly under a hot grill.

VANILLA POACHED PEARS WITH CHOCOLATE SAUCE

Chocolate goes well with tender pears in this delicate dessert, served with sugared mint leaves.
SERVES 4

6 large plump pears, such as Williams
2 tbsp lemon juice



200g caster sugar
200ml dessert wine
2 vanilla pods
For the chocolate sauce
75g caster sugar
100g chopped plain chocolate
20g butter, diced
For the sugared mint leaves
Sprigs of mint, beaten egg white and icing sugar

1 Peel pears, leaving stalks intact. Scoop out the core from the base of each whole pear. Brush the pears with 1 tbsp of lemon juice.
2 In a saucepan, gently heat the sugar, wine and vanilla pods with 250ml water until sugar dissolves. Add pears and remaining lemon juice, cover and cook very gently for about 20 minutes, turning occasionally until only just tender. Leave to cool in the syrup. Then transfer pears and syrup to a Kilner jar and keep in the fridge (for up to 3 days).
3 To make sauce, gently heat sugar in a pan with 75ml water, stirring until dissolved. Bring to the boil and boil for 1 minute. Remove from heat and leave for 2 minutes before adding chocolate. Leave off heat to melt, stirring often until smooth. Add butter and stir until melted.
4 To make the sugared mint leaves*, brush a little egg white all over the sprigs then coat with icing sugar. Leave to dry out on a sheet of baking parchment.
5 Serve pears with a little syrup and a drizzle of sauce. Decorate with the sugared mint leaves.

FEATURE SARAH WILSON **RECIPES** JOANNA FARROW **STYLING** SANNA FYRING LIEDGREN/HOUSE OF PICTURES **PHOTOGRAPHS** ANNA KERN/HOUSE OF PICTURES
* PLEASE NOTE, THE SUGARED MINT USES RAW EGG WHITE

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‘I USE THE FINEST BOTANICAL INGREDIENTS AND NOTHING ELSE’

Skincare entrepreneur Natalie Bond

Natalie Bond first came up with the idea for her luxury organic skincare and home fragrance company when she was pregnant with her son Alfie, who is now two years old. ‘For the first time in my life I couldn’t bear the fragrance of the products I was using,’ she explains. ‘On closer inspection of the labels I discovered that most of them were full of synthetic chemicals, and I was so concerned about the effect on my unborn baby that I stopped using them immediately. After some further research, I became convinced that going back to nature was the only way. And it wasn’t just skincare products – I realised that there were synthetic fragrances in the candles I was burning at home, too.’

At her house in the beautiful South Yorkshire countryside, Natalie (spelt without an ‘h’ unlike her company name) started experimenting at the kitchen table, creating products using only natural oils and butters that are safe and sustainably sourced. ‘It was a case of measuring, mixing and blending to come up with the right formulas,’ she says. ‘And, of course, the products had to smell heavenly, too.’

First came a collection of beautifully scented natural wax and pure organic essential oil candles, followed by luxurious handmade soaps with therapeutic oils and cleansing clay. ‘It was wonderful to see my dream come to fruition as my business got off the ground,’ says Natalie. I’d played about with ideas before, but nothing concrete.’

Her previous career in PR and events management proved very useful. She worked on all the ideas for the design and packaging herself, as well as sourcing ingredients and making the products. Then she went out and started selling her wares. ‘My husband, Andrew, has also been very involved in the business. His background »



All the ingredients are 100% natural including dried calendula and rose petals (above left).

What I love most...

'IF SOMETHING IS MADE ORGANICALLY, YOU KNOW IT HAS THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE PRACTICE AT HEART'

as a product designer was also invaluable to the business. But it was very much a process of learning as we went along.'

Natalie and Andrew started selling small batches of the candles and soaps at local markets. The products flew off the stall, so they decided it was time to do a proper business plan and raise some funds. This was successful and provided much-needed start-up capital. Once the company got off the ground (it officially launched in January 2014), a crowdfunding campaign followed that raised a further £6,000 to see them through the first year.

Natalie had started off running the business from home, but the arrival of Alfie meant that it was more practical to move into an office nearby. 'The extra space has not only allowed us to order larger quantities from suppliers, it's also meant that we could keep a tab on our work-life balance,' she says. 'My working day is planned around Alfie's routine. Being my own boss and setting my own working hours does give me a lot more flexibility.'



Alfie loves helping stick labels on things when he's not playing with his toys...

The business has expanded quickly. The range now features body scrubs and oils, bath salts and skin balms, with prices starting from £4.50 for a lip salve in Double Mint and Sweet Orange. Other signature fragrances include lavender and chamomile, and rose geranium and patchouli.

So, gorgeous products aside, what does Natalie think is the secret of her success? 'I can't say we did anything fancy apart from thoroughly researching our competitors and their price points, and looking at demand. We haven't spent a lot on our website either, using e-commerce company Shopify, instead. Our business is about more than simply selling beautiful products though. We wanted to incorporate a philanthropic element, so we also aim to give two per cent of our annual revenue to help support and nurture disadvantaged children and mothers around the world.'

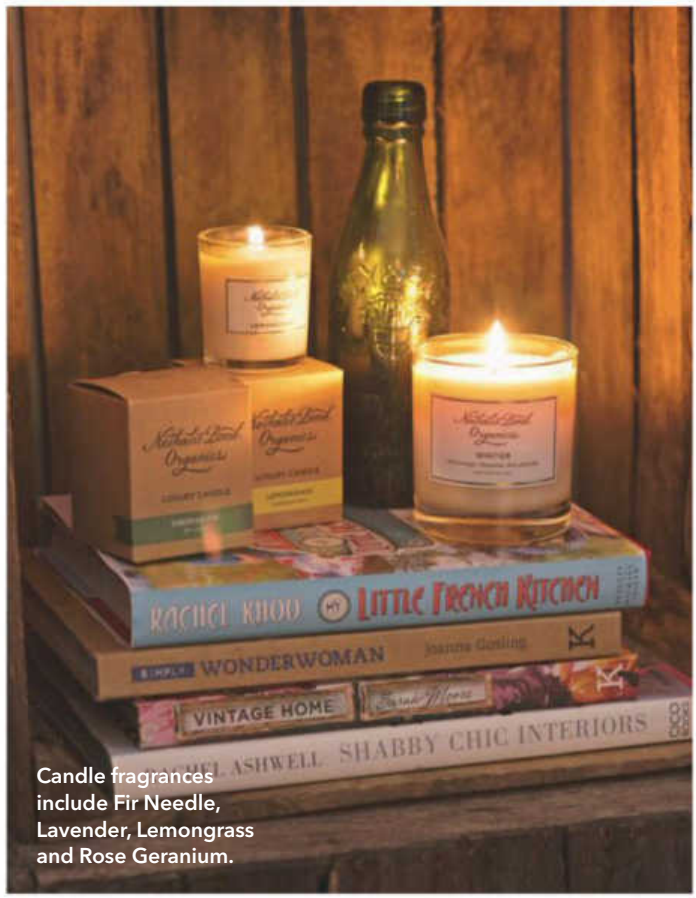
A recent highlight was going to Liberty Open Call in London, where designers and creatives present their ideas to a Liberty panel, and meeting MD Ed Burstell. 'Ed was charming and really complimentary about our packaging,' says Natalie. Another factor that makes it all worthwhile is hearing from fans of the products. 'The positive feedback from customers has been overwhelming. It means a lot when someone tells you how much your product has helped them, and why.'

So what does the future hold for Nathalie Bond Organics? 'We hope to increase our stockists here and abroad. We're also working on new product lines, so look out for our new launches.'

With the business doing so well and baby number two due any day now, life is only going to get even busier for Natalie.

☎ Nathalie Bond Organics, 0114 2331502, nathaliebond.com. »

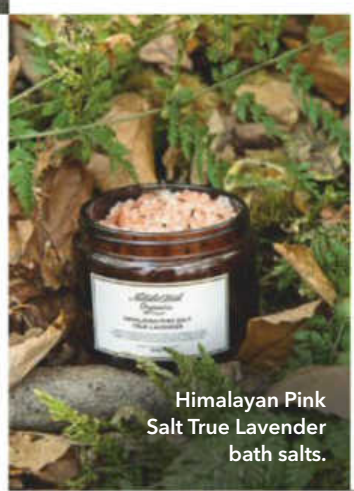




Candle fragrances include Fir Needle, Lavender, Lemongrass and Rose Geranium.



Natalie makes all her product ranges by hand. She uses 100% soy wax in her candles.



Himalayan Pink Salt True Lavender bath salts.







ON OUR DOORSTEP...

Visit... 'I love living in the Peaks and venturing out to Burbage Edge for a rugged windswept walk, or going to Padley Gorge where you feel like you are in a *Lord of the Rings* film.'

Shop at... 'MoonKo (moonko.co.uk) for a fabulous range of wares made by emerging independent designers that are kind to the planet.'

Go for a meal at... 'Marmadukes (0114 276 7462, marmadukes cafedeli.co.uk) in Sheffield, has a quirky vintage/French feel and serves beautifully fresh homemade lunches and great coffee.'



Natalie is passionate about getting the right work-life balance. She loves going out for autumn walks with Andrew and Alfie in Ecclesall Woods, Sheffield.

Small business advice

SETTING UP AN ORGANIC BEAUTY COMPANY

Follow our straightforward guide to creating a successful format







First, look at the market. A report earlier this year by the Soil Association revealed UK sales of certified organic health and beauty products increased by 20% in 2014 to £44.6 million. Emma Reinhold of Soil Association Certification says: 'Organic beauty now appeals to a much wider group of consumers. The overall UK organic market is expected to grow steadily again in 2015, and should break the £2 billion barrier in 2016.' The mood in the market is confident, so there's never been a better time to think about launching an organic beauty business.

Why are organic products better for you? Recent consumer research by Organic Monitor revealed that 90% of UK consumers who buy natural and organic health and beauty products say 'avoidance of synthetic chemicals' is important to them. In the case of Nathalie Bond Organics, everything is made with only raw plant ingredients; the majority of its ingredients are certified organic. Products are handcrafted, labelled, packed and shipped from the office in the UK. Therefore you know how the products have been made from start to finish; synthetic chemical fragrances or preservatives are not used; and finally products are tested on the Nathalie Bond Organics team and not on animals in laboratories.

Where do you start to look for organic supplies? Finding the right suppliers can be tricky and time consuming. Natalie started by looking on Google and finding a global trading site called Alibaba (alibaba.com), then vetting it for organic certification. Andrew also spends time researching the web to find new suppliers, who can only claim to be organic if they have certification, so it's important to ask to see this. The Soil Association is the first stop for any enquiries about organic certification (soilassociation.org).

How does the shelf life of organic products differ? This depends on the ingredients used and how the products are stored. Essential oils, for example, are sensitive to heat so it's important to keep natural products sealed at all times to preserve shelf life. Check the shelf life after opening, which should be on the label of the product (it looks like a jar with an open lid and should have a number on it). Natalie's products have a shelf life of 12 months, but once opened this varies from six to 12 months.

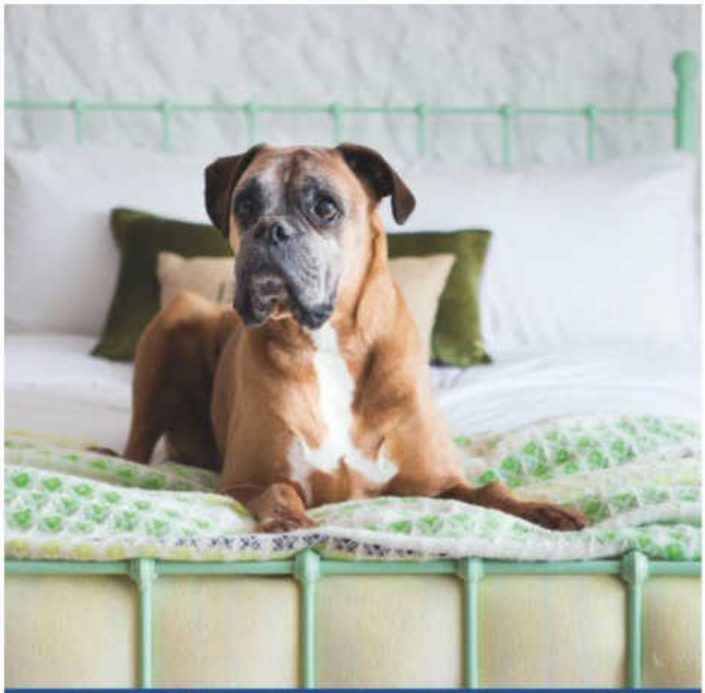
What are the requirements for Soil Association certification? Currently there is no legal requirement for companies to be certified to produce and sell organic and natural cosmetics, but consumers are starting to look for assurance symbols and logos. In simple terms, the steps you need to take to gain Soil Association certification are: submission of application pack; review of product information; inspection of manufacturing processes, equipment and procedures; your organic licence is granted. You can find out more about the process by visiting sacert.org.

What other initiatives ensure your business is as eco-friendly as possible? Natalie has found that being completely eco-friendly takes time and isn't 100% possible because health and safety laws mean suppliers have to be extremely careful how they produce and supply goods. If suppliers use a lot of padding to protect supplies in transit, Natalie re-uses the packaging in her own shipments. She is also trying to find ways to reduce air pollution and, wherever possible, source supplies from the UK. Packaging made from recycled cardboard and glass is the preferred choice as nothing else offers the same level of purity, protection and recyclability, plus it will not leach any synthetic chemicals into the contents.

The one lesson I've learned...

'KEEP IN MIND THAT LIFE IS NOT ALL ABOUT WORK, AND SPEND TIME THINKING THROUGH YOUR WORK-LIFE BALANCE'

FEATURE SARAH WILSON **PHOTOGRAPHS** POLLY ELTES



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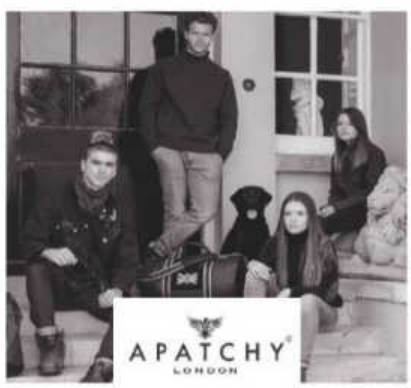
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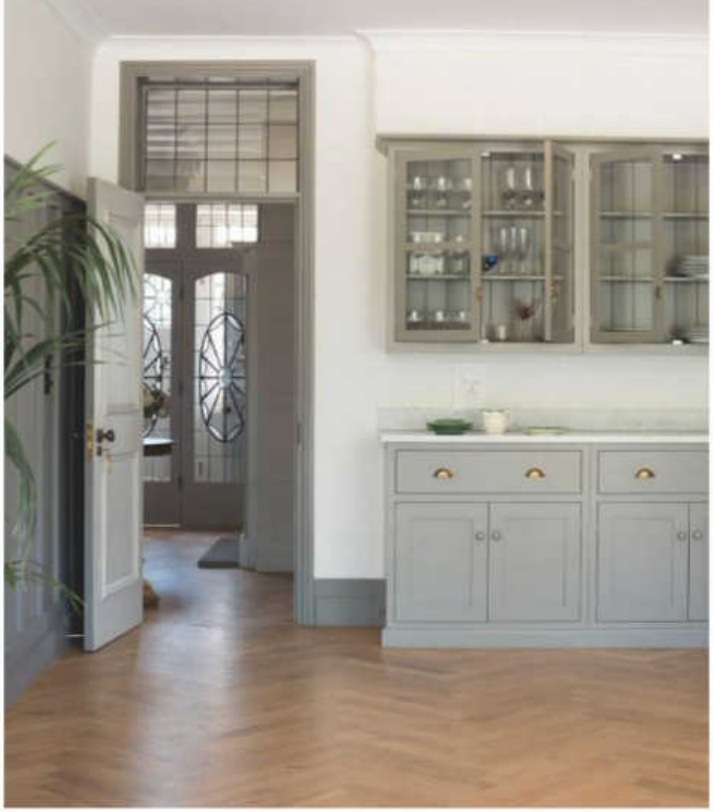
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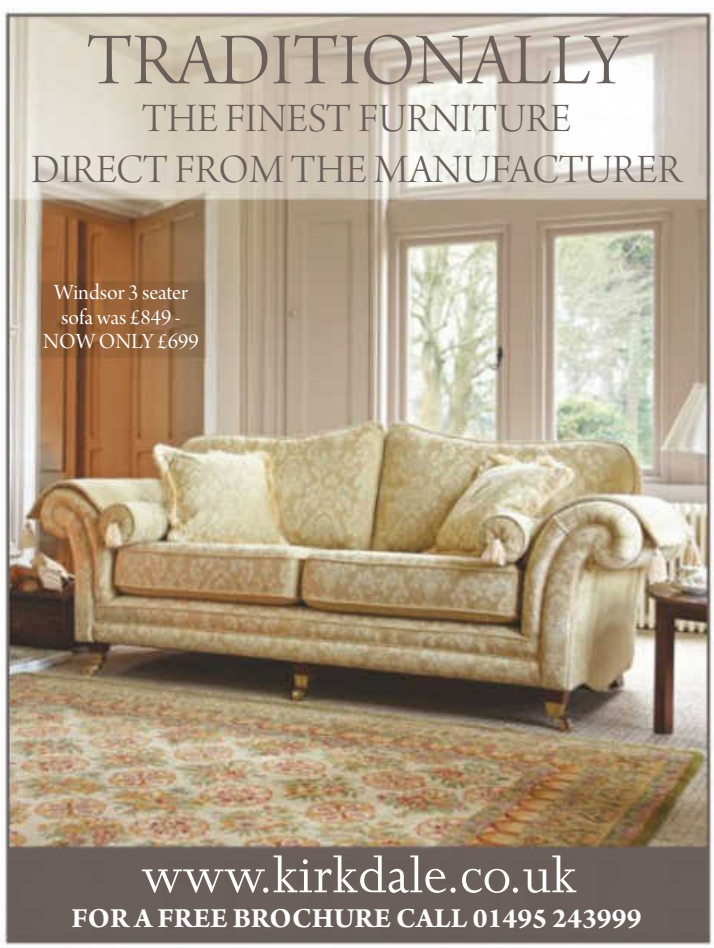
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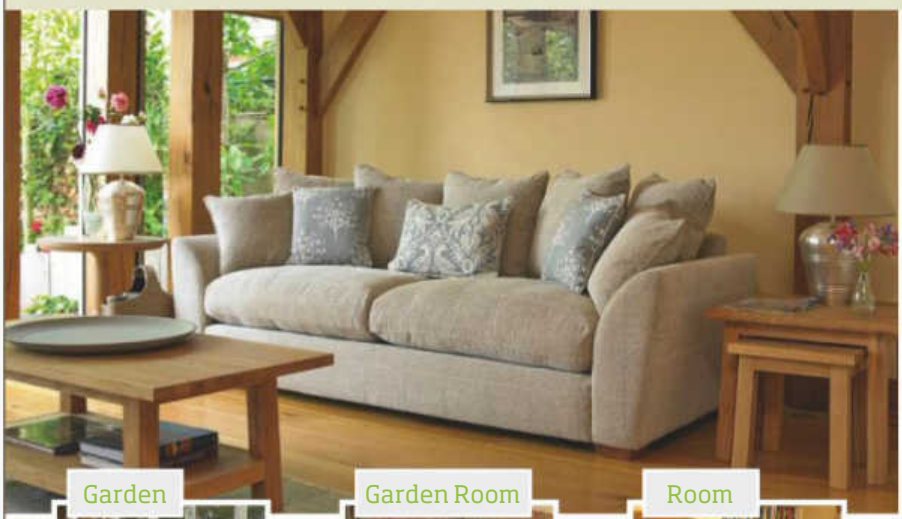

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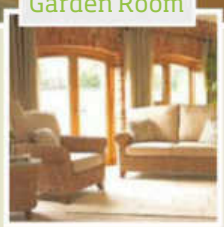
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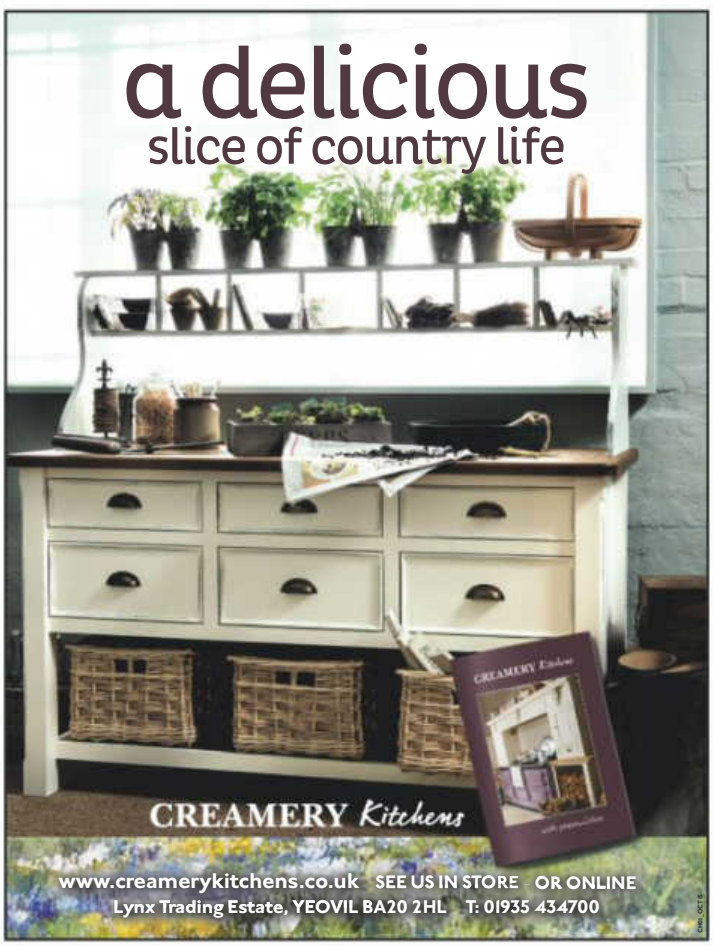
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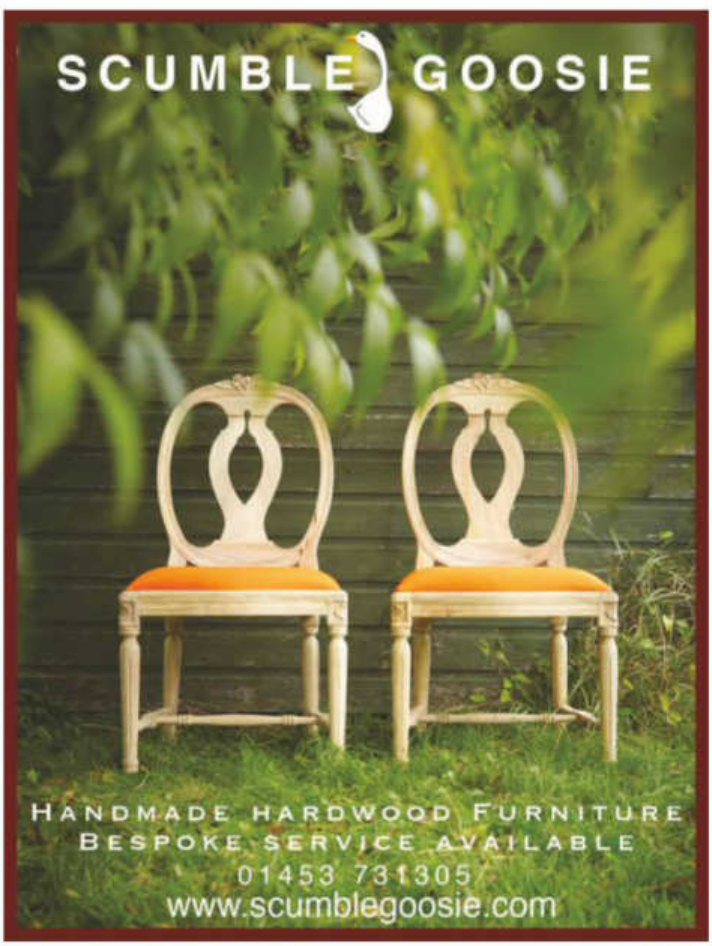
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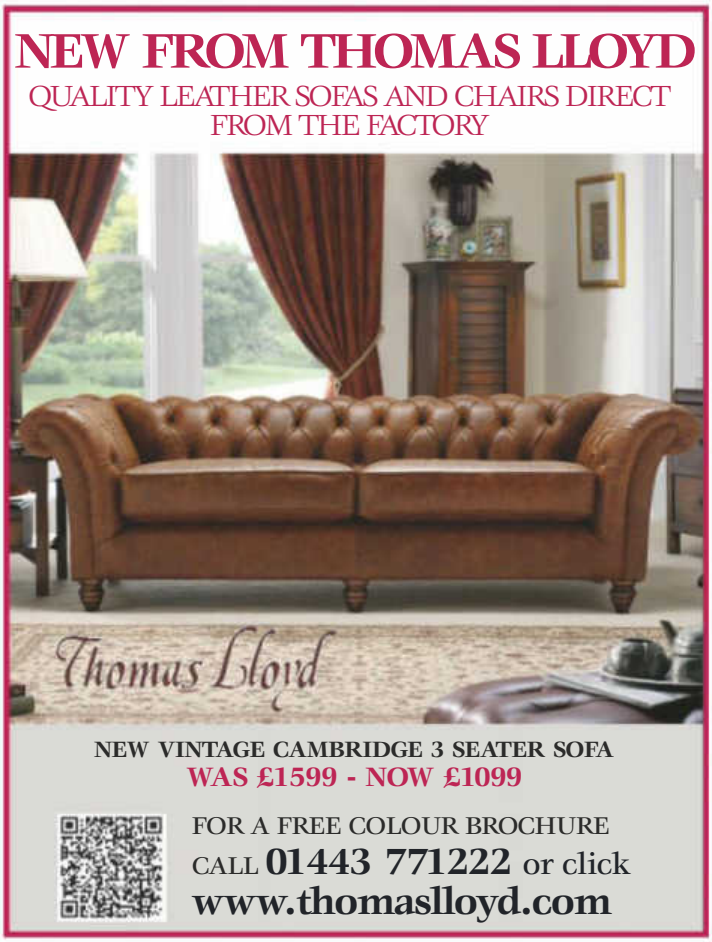
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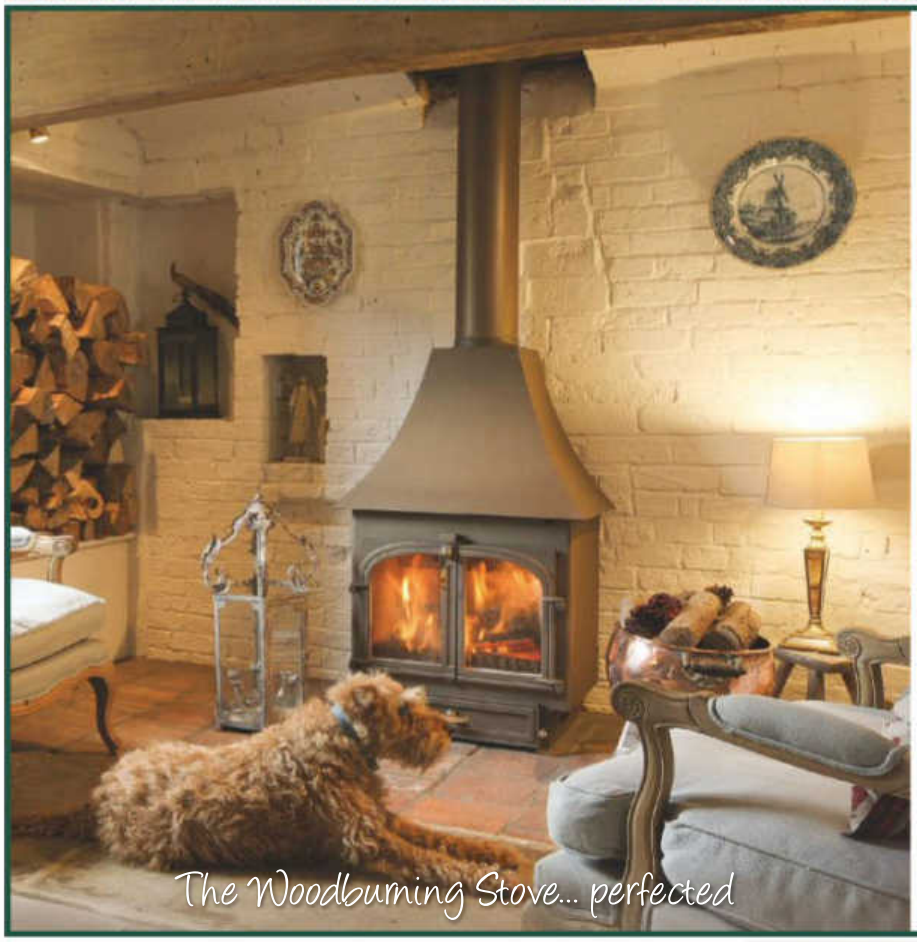
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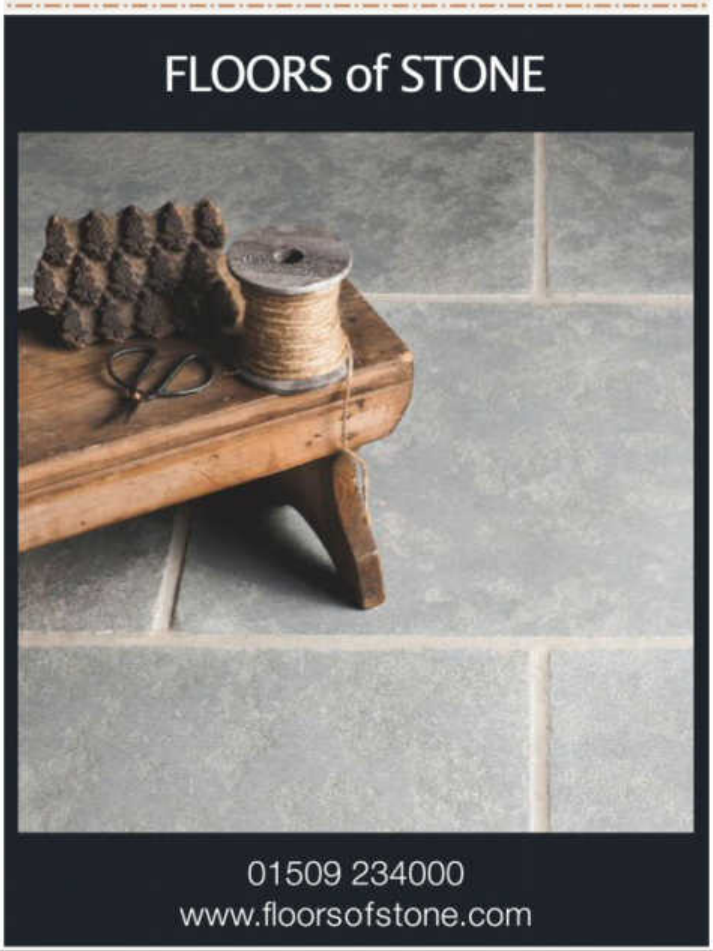
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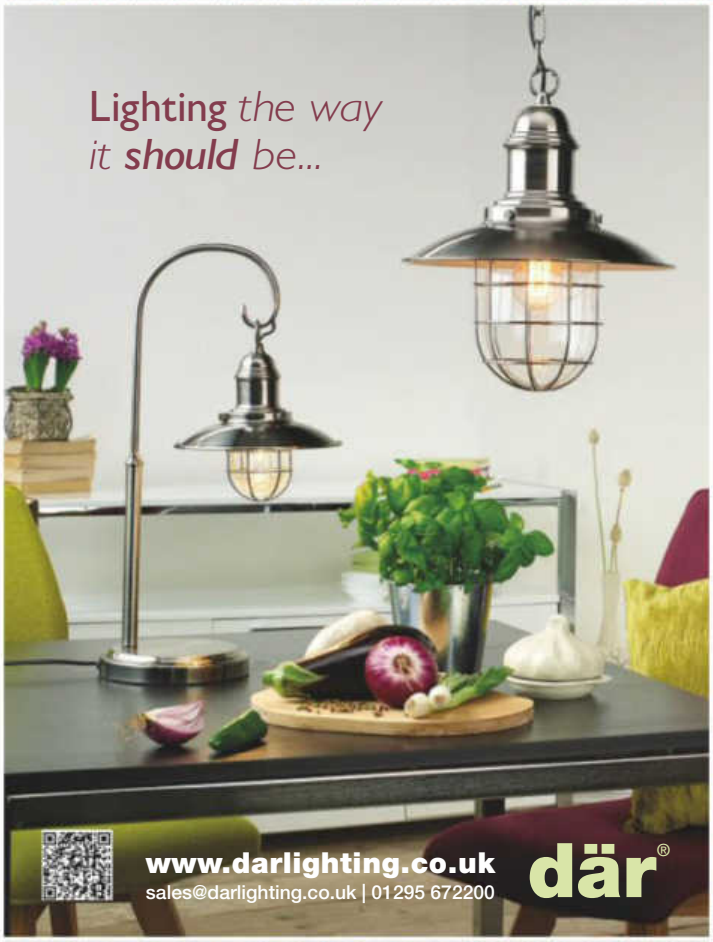


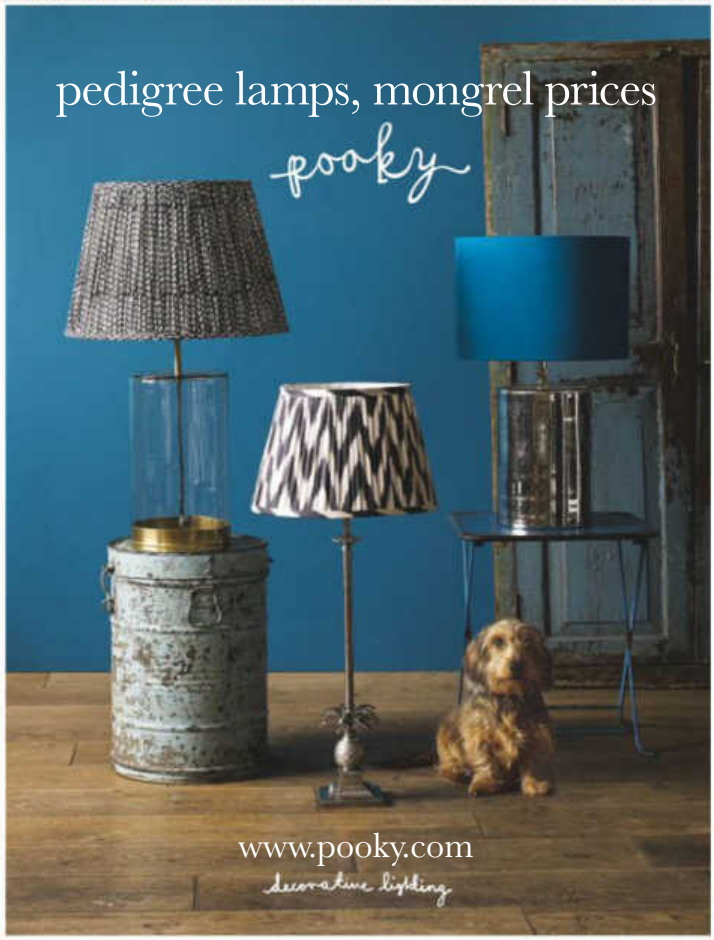
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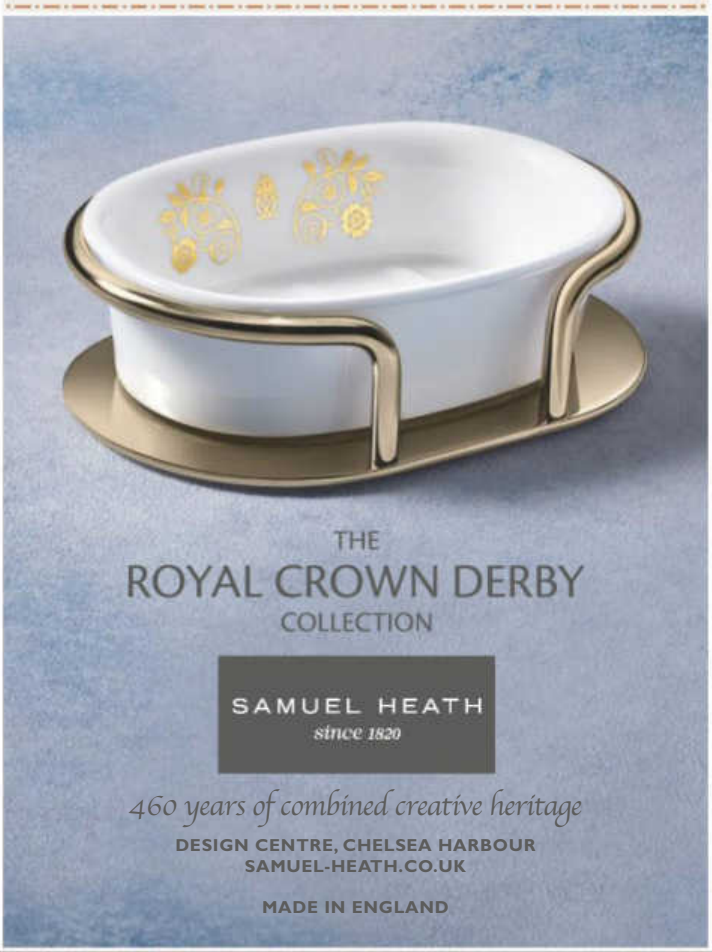


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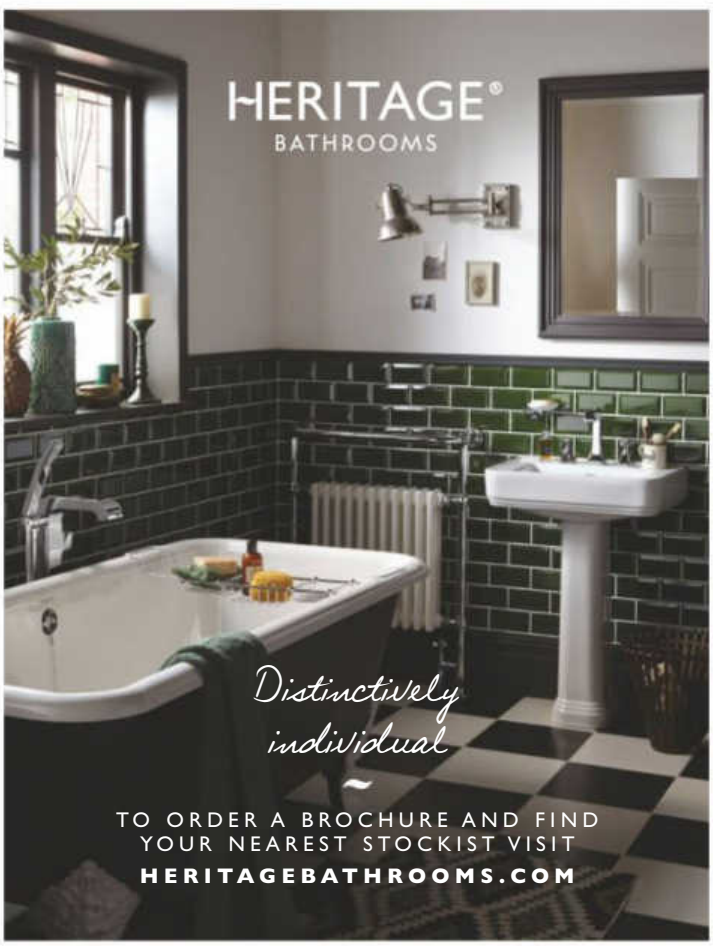
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‘I LOVE GAZING OVER PORT LYMPNE WILD ANIMAL PARK’

Conservationist Damian Aspinall



This incredible view is from the Treehouse Hotel at Port Lympne. I come here whenever I’m visiting the reserve, as from this vantage point – high up in the tree canopy – you have an uninterrupted view of the reserve. A lot of the time I find myself gazing into the distance as it’s not often you get to enjoy the rolling fields of Kent from this height.

This place is a real reminder of all that we are trying to achieve with our internationally renowned animal conservation charity, The Aspinall Foundation, and the incredible wild animals – apes, lions, tigers, rhinoceros – that we help to save from danger and extinction. As well as the foundation, I run the 90-acre Howletts Wild Animal Park and Port Lympne Reserve, splitting my time between London and Kent.

My father was zoo owner John Aspinall and as a family, we all grew up visiting Port Lympne most weekends. This place brings back many happy memories of playing here with my siblings and the animals, particularly the gorillas. I loved living at close quarters with the animals – it really was a magical childhood. It’s not everyone who gets the opportunity to grow up with tigers in their garden.

I head up to this spot on my own for a bit of peace and quiet, but I also love it when my daughters join me – Tansy, 25, Clary, 23, and Freya, 12. It’s most definitely a place to escape from the busyness of life; somewhere to make the most of the serenity. A sunny day is the best time to visit to really appreciate it in all its glory. However, I also enjoy the moodiness of the view in the early evening just as the sun goes down.

As I also spend many months of the year travelling, particularly in Africa, I am always inspired by the places I stay in and the different experiences that are on offer. This helped me come up with the concept of a ‘treehouse’ hotel.

My dream was that the Treehouse Hotel would be unique in offering visitors a break no one has experienced in the UK before. After a day walking and exploring the grounds, you can enjoy the sunset from your private balcony high up in the trees, with the sounds of the wild animals below. The hotel has been designed to provide a relaxing respite from the busy world we live in. I don’t imagine many people will be able to say they’ve slept above roaming rhino, with the noises of Africa around them, in a British-made treehouse and with a spectacular 30-mile view across the sea to France. It is most definitely a weekend they will not forget.

For more information about Port Lympne Reserve, near Ashford, Kent CT21 4LR, call 01303 234112 or go to aspinallfoundation.org/treehouse-hotel.

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